MJCBYWNEWS

January 2024, Tevet 5784 - Shevat 5784

"On Tu B'Shvat, on Tu B'Shvat, Watch the trees dancing in the breeze, giving shade to you and me, the beauty that we come to see that comes from planting just a seed.

And the Earth will be happy, and the Earth will sing songs, we will plant our trees and watch them blossom, giving fruit, giving gifts, growing strong.

On Tu B'Shvat, on Tu B'Shvat, Watch the trees dancing in the breeze, giving shade to you and me, the beauty that we come to see that comes from planting just a seed.



And the trees will be happy, and the trees will sing songs, they will grow to be full of fruit so sweet, caring for the hungry, you and me.

On Tu B'Shvat, on Tu B'Shvat, Watch the trees dancing in the breeze, giving shade to you and me, the beauty that we come to see that comes from planting just a seed."

The Tu B'Shvat Song by Debbie Friedman z'l

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Cantor Shana Onigman

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Michael Roberts, Controller

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Miriam Loew, Education and Program Director/Youth Advisor

Flo Sager, Religious School Administrator

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Alexis McGrath, 2nd Vice President

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Rita Gotfried, Secretary

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Ira Hammer & Fern Spitzer, Advisors

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Board of Education - Marci Charm

Development – Irv Cohen & Sara Forman

Facilities – Fern Spitzer

Gemilut Hasadim - Debbie Goldstein

History – Lewis Stone

Inclusion – Rebecca Wanatick

Jewish Young Community – Nathan Vaisbort & Asher Weinstein

Membership – Amy Brunswick & Rebecca Wanatick

Personnel - Rita Gotfried

Ritual - Howard Baum, Paul Green, & Ira Hammer

Security - Alexis McGrath

Shalom Yeladim – Fern Spitzer

Social Action - Louis Bodian & Howard Buxbaum

Technology – Paul Green, Mark Levine, and Amy Weinstock

MEN'S CLUB

Mark Levine (917) 439-8366

SISTERHOOD

Dorothy Cohen (973) 361-4338

Heidi Schleifer-Fleischman (973) 615-5181

SISTERHOOD JUDAICA GIFT SHOP

Sharon Barkauskas (201) 874-8744, Vivian Laska (973) 984-8178, Kim Synalovski (973) 714-7636, Janet Appelbaum (973) 886-0702 &

Ivy Rubin (973) 781-0844

SISTERHOOD KIDDUSH COMMITTEE

Dorothy Cohen (973) 361-4338

SISTERHOOD TORAH FUND

Linda Rosenbaum (973) 895-2390

NEWSLETTER

Paula Czeisler & Rockey Cornell, Editors & Designers

Fran Loewensteiner, Copy Editor



Gemilut Hasadim means "bestowing kindness". In Judaism, an attribute of G-d is said to be imitated by those who show personal kindness towards others.

The Gemilut Hasadim Committee at MJCBY is here to help support you and your family during times of need. Whether experiencing an illness, recovering from surgery, or having lost a loved one, we are here to help make difficult times a little easier.

We are able to cook and deliver meals, provide support during shiva, or help connect you with other resources. If you or a fellow congregant could benefit from our services, please contact Debbie Goldstein. If you would like to be added to the list of those available to help when needs arise, please contact Debbie as well.

debbiegoldstein24@yahoo.com 973-713-3869

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Friday Night – 6:15pm Saturday Morning – 9:30am

IN PERSON

AND

VIA ZOOM

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6576297611

Meeting ID: 657 629 7611

Passcode: MJCBY

Join us online for Havdalah at the end of Shabbat every week! Havdalah times listed in weekly e-blast.

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK



Holding onto a Vision of Light in this Time of Darkness

Rabbi Adam Gillman

Dear MJCBY Community,

As I write this, we, as a Jewish people, find ourselves in a moment of trauma, anxiety, and fear.

In this time of darkness, the light of the Hanukkiah (lamp) has offered some respite and, for a moment, allowed an instance of pause to remind ourselves of our ancient stories and reverberations in our present. The stories of years past, along with the story of now, lay a pathway to the stories of tomorrow.

In a time in which many try to silence, refute, or deny our story and our ability to tell it, may we acknowledge the difficulty of the present; we should strive to hold hope, a vision for the world we not only want to see but the one in which we will help build. We are called upon to continue holding, telling, and expanding our stories, experiences, and truths.

But as we move towards winter, the days become shorter, and it can be more difficult to sense, see, and feel that light, to feel that we are heard, valued, and affirmed.

Yet, while times become harder, our bonds as a Jewish People have become strengthened. The deep rootedness of our story has taken on an even greater amount of meaning, connection, and relationship with our family in

Coffee, Chat, and Schmooze with Rabbi Gillman

We'll gather in Frigand Hall to catch up, grab a cup of Joe, schmooze, and learn a bissle (a tiny bit) of Torah.

Wednesdays 10:30 - 11:30 am

Israel. As we continue to pray and show up for our people, may we lean in more deeply to our story.

The Festival of Tu B'Shvat takes place on the 15th of the month of Shevat. As the Birthday of the Trees", Tu B'Shvat has grown in meaning and significance over time. Beginning from our biblical roots of agricultural life, it developed further into a fixed time for a particular emphasis on proper rainfall into a marked time towards praying for the proper rainfall in the word of the ancient rabbis. In medieval times, the Kabbalistics (Jewish mystics) saw the festival as a symbol and marker of mystical significance.

And in our time, it connected with Eretz Yisra'el, the Land of Israel. In celebrating Tu B'Shvat, we affirm that spring will come again.

As this moment in which it can be hardest to see the light, may we be blessed to continue telling our stories and singing our songs. May we realize that the way through the darkness is not done alone but as a community and a people. We merit to continue telling our story. Am Yisrael Chai!

CANTOR'S NOTES



Seedlings for Tu B'Shvat Cantor Shana Onigman

I do not have a green thumb. The extent of my gardening skills consists of maybe two or three years of a semi-successful tiny backyard garden, and a compost pile that occasionally gives us squash or tomatoes, to the delight of our resident groundhog. While I love houseplants, and have many of them scattered all over my house, I couldn't tell you the species of more than maybe three of them, and I don't manage

to keep all of them alive, but lose at least one or two each year to underwatering, overwatering, or some other mystery.

Despite my lack of a green thumb, every year I collect seeds from grapefruits, lemons, oranges, and occasionally apples and pears, and try to get them to sprout in time to give them as gifts to our religious school students to take home on Tu B'Shvat. Some years I plan ahead and manage to sprout two dozen of them on my back patio over the summer. The ones I manage to find space for in my house and keep alive until Tu B'Shvat in January or early February are usually sturdy and have established little mini-trees by then. These tiny trees stand anywhere from four to six inches tall, with lovely shining green leaves, ready to go to a new home with an elementary or middle school student.

This year, my normal plans to sprout seedlings for our students fell apart. Maybe I wasn't buying enough citrus fruits at the right time of year, and the few I bought didn't have viable seeds. Maybe I just didn't think about it until too late in the year, or I felt like we didn't have the space in the house for the seedlings, or the back patio got too hot in the roasting summer heat. But this year, I only managed to sprout one lemon seed for Tu B'Shvat. Currently it's only a few weeks old and only a few inches tall. Nonetheless, this one seedling brings me joy and comfort this time of year. I know it's anthropomorphic to ascribe human attributes to a plant, but the new life growing in the little plastic pot seems to embody hope and optimism as it reaches up and stretches its tiny new green leaves towards the light. Tu B'Shvat began in ancient times as no more than a date on which to mark each fruit-producing tree as one year older, in order to keep track of when



the trees' fruit would qualify to be offered at the Temple. It later became a day on which to plant trees to transform the landscape in Israel, as well as a day on which to express our appreciation for the natural world, through trees as a symbol. Today, I marvel at my one tiny successful seedling as an example of life's ability to continually renew itself.

Our clergy is here for you. Please let us know when you need us or when you want to share your good news: a new baby, a marriage, or other simcha. We want to know, but you have to tell us. Please call the office at (973) 538-9292 or email office@mjcby.org. When you have experienced the death of a loved one, please contact Rabbi Gillman at (973) 538-9292 before you make any plans. He will be the most helpful in making these preparations in a proper Jewish manner.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Learning from Other Area Congregations and Looking Towards Our Future

Jason Navarino

On December 4th, 2023, I had the pleasure of attending a dinner meeting of area synagogue presidents hosted by the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ. In the room were leaders of Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform congregations from throughout the region, including our neighboring synagogues in Morristown and Morris

County. We heard from Federation's board president, Michael Goldberg; its CEO, Dov Ben-Shimon; and other Federation officials, and had an opportunity to engage in dialogue about the unique challenges we and our congregations are facing at this difficult time.

As he did when he visited MJCBY in October, Dov spoke about the current situation in Israel and what we are and can be doing here in New Jersey to help. This led to a conversation about the rise of antisemitism around the world, and particularly in our schools and on our college campuses, where criticism of Israel (some legitimate, much if not most) is quickly and disturbingly quite openly morphing into Jew-hate. Several of my peers noted that the teens and college students in their communities are really struggling with this and need help. I then got to mention that the Federation was hosting an event for teens to address this very issue, at the exact same time as our dinner was taking place – at MJCBY, of all places! I'm sorry I couldn't be in two places at once, but I hear that it was a great event.

Then we got into talking about other issues that many of us are facing in our shuls. On several of these topics, I sat back and reflected on how far we've come over the past several years. For instance, one topic of concern to many of my peers is security – how to get grants, and how to better secure their facilities. We have been quite successful in terms of getting significant grants to fund important upgrades to our security infrastructure, and we are grateful to our Security Chair Alexis McGrath for her time and dedication to these efforts, and to providing essential training to our clergy, staff, and volunteers. On the topic of technology, many synagogues are struggling with the switch to ShulCloud and similar software and are far from having the online registration and dues-paying capabilities that we now enjoy thanks to the dedicated work of Amy Weinstock, Michael Roberts, and Rockey Cornell. And on the topic of engaging with younger folks and getting them to come into the building, our Jewish Young Community clearly sets us apart.

Of course, we have our struggles, too. While we are engaging with many younger individuals and families, they aren't becoming dues-paying members in the way that prior generations did. This isn't unique to Morristown, but it does disrupt our business model. While many of these younger people are content to pay for the events they attend to cover program costs, we have significant overhead costs, including maintaining the old and leaky roof over our heads. Our lovable but aged building presents significant challenges to us as we plan our future. And speaking of age, trying to make decisions that best serve a congregation spread across multiple ages and generations, each with their own unique preferences and needs, is another challenge we face in terms of governance and community building. Again, we're not alone in this, but it is something we must address.

So, we have a lot in common with our neighboring synagogues. Our struggles are their struggles, although perhaps more exacerbated in certain respects, while at the same time we enjoy some unique advantages and opportunities. As we approach the celebration of our 125 years of history this year, we must be open to tapping the wisdom and common experiences of our peers. We must take advantage of the unique opportunities we have, while embracing creativity and flexibility, and being both patient and open to new ideas, to overcome our challenges, and to figure out how to survive and thrive in the years ahead.

IN ISRAEL, NEVER AGAIN MEANS NOW!

Written by our member Benji Forman for his school newspaper



The DSA Protest 1 day after the massacre

I am a Jew.

I spent this past July in Israel. It was one of the most transformative experiences of my life and the culmination of the year-long Diller Teen Fellowship, a global program emphasizing leadership, community service, and *Tikkun Olam*, which in Hebrew means repairing the world. Even with everything going on, including the massive protests against the government's proposed overhaul of the judicial system, not once during my time there this summer (or during my family's trip there in 2019) did I ever feel unsafe.

That sense of security no longer remains. Waking up on October 7th, I faced the news of the barrage of Hamas rocket fire by drone, preventing the Iron Dome from activating. I watched in horror the ambush and massacres by Hamas terrorists at the kibbutzim. I saw the murder in cold blood of music festivalgoers, families sleeping in for the holidays of *Shemini*Atzeret and Simchat Torah, people waiting for the bus, soldiers in their barracks, and innocent motorists traveling on a highway, all the while wondering if my family was okay. I watched innocent civilians paraded through the streets with the crotch area on their pants soaked in blood from the vile acts they endured stoically. The onslaught was indiscriminate, and the few who were spared are now held hostage in sordid conditions where their family can only hope they are alive. October 7, 2023 will be known as the date of death for 1200 Jews, the most in a single day since the Holocaust.

I am angered and disillusioned by the responses of many. Already, politicians are pontificating on the reasons

behind the terrorist attack, justifying it through twisted logic that attempts to understand the motives of terrorists who profess they love death like we love life. Elected officials with massive followings, Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in particular, have the audacity to remain silent for days throughout this massacre, only feeling it necessary to post when one Jew says something reprehensible. Meanwhile, rallies around the world chant "gas the Jews" or "F@\$% the Jews."



Israeli Hostage forced into a car by Hamas Terrorist

Rather than condemning the worst terror attack since 9/11, the New York City Democratic Socialists of America, the largest socialist group in the U.S. and AOC's primary benefactor, promoted a rally in solidarity with Palestinian "resistance." On October 8th, before the family members of victims could begin to find solace in a proper burial, protesters marched through Times Square, brandishing banners celebrating Hamas and chanting, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free." This de-facto Hamas call to action originates from the belief that the only way for Palestinians to have a nation comes at the complete destruction of Israel – and its Jews.

Many university presidents, who were eager to chime in on every other social political topic of relevance, suddenly feel sanctimonious enough to issue statements that feign moral equivalence or even condone exercises of "free speech" when they call for the mass murder of Jews. The hypocrisy is so palpable you can almost feel it.

Intelligence failures, Iranian support for Hamas, and internal Israeli politics aside, there is no situation where it is moral or just to celebrate the kidnapping, rape, torture, and slaughter of innocent people. There is no "both sides" to this issue.



An apartment building in Rishon LeZion struck by a Hamas rocket

My friend and Diller exchange partner Tomer, who stayed in Mountain Lakes and visited MLHS last March, has spent the last few days between his apartment in Rishon LeZion, where I stayed with him this summer, and a bomb shelter. His older brother Nir was called up to serve in the army, and some units from his post have already been massacred. My 20-year-old cousin Avigail is also fighting with the army, and my relatives near Haifa have spent far too much time in their bomb shelters since the attacks began that Saturday.

כֹל עוֹד בַּלֵבֶב פְּנִימָה

נֶפֶשׁ יְהוּדִי הוֹמִיָּה,

וּלְפַאֲתֵי מִזְרָח קָדִימָה,

עַיִן לְצִיּוֹן צוֹפִיָּה;

עוֹד לֹא אַבְדָה תִּקְנַתֵנוּ,

הַתִּקְנָה בַּת שָׁנוֹת אַלְפַּיִם,

לְהְיוֹת עַם חָפְשִׁי ? בָּאַרְצֵנוּ

אָרֶץ צִיּוֹן וִירוּשֶׁלִיִם.

The Israeli national anthem: "Hatikvah," written in hopes of a day when diaspora Jews could be safe In Israel Like Ukraine, Israel is facing a challenge to its very existence. And like Ukraine, Israel will fight for survival. We Jews always think about the phrase "never again" and what it meant to have suffered wholesale slaughter of our community 80 years ago, with the complicity of much of the world in the process. We take those two words seriously and we will ensure that no one will ever forget what happens as a consequence when we are attacked. When Israel does its moral duty and fights to extinguish the Hamas terrorist organization within Gaza, be prepared for the entire world to shift their unequivocal condemnation upon Israel. We are called seekers of genocide, ethnic cleansers, or any other pejorative to compare the victims of Nazism with the perpetrators themselves.

Please, stand with Israel as it fights to eradicate the menace of Hamas like the world did to destroy ISIS. To the Palestinians who will inevitably be caught in the collateral damage of a war brought upon them by their government, it is a tragedy that they will have to face uprooting or death. But Hamas, who is supposed to protect them, instead keeps their terrorist infrastructure within apartment buildings and their headquarters below hospitals, mosques, and schools. Every drop of blood spilled from this war is their responsibility, their fault, and their choice.

One day, I hope for peace. Today, I hope for the renewed safety of the largest population of Jews in the world and respite for my family and friends in Israel.

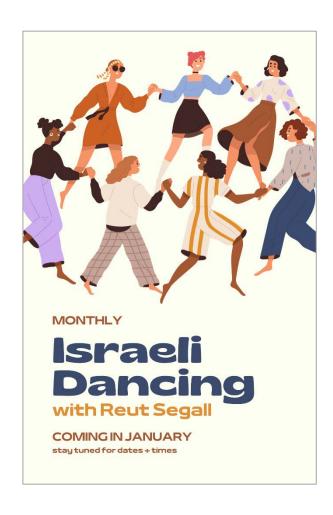
JANUARY EVENTS

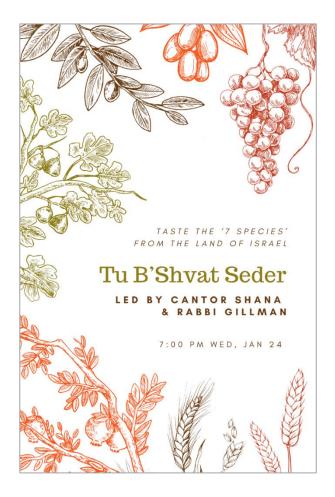












ADULT ED PROGRAM COMING IN JANUARY

Dan Grunfeld, an All-American and All-Conference basketball selection at Stanford University, and former professional basketball player in top leagues around the world (including in Israel), is also the son of Ernie Grunfeld, gold medalist for the 1976 United States Olympic Team who played for the Milwaukee Bucks, Kansas City Kings, and New York Knicks. Dan will talk about his book, *By the Grace of the Game: The Holocaust, A Basketball Legacy, and an Unprecedented American Dream*. In it, Dan shares the remarkable story of his family and the discovery of a game that unknowingly held the power to heal wounds, build bridges, and tie together a fractured Jewish family. From the grips of the Nazis to the top of the Olympic podium, from the cheap seats to center stage at Madison Square Garden, from yellow stars to silver spoons, Dan's story details how perseverance, love, and legacy can survive through generations, carried on the shoulders of a simple and beautiful game.

SECURITY CORNER



We have AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators)!

Alexis McGrath, Security

MJCBY continually strives to improve its safety and security posture to ensure you and your family are well-taken care of when you're here. As part of that effort, we have installed three AED machines in key areas of our building. The use of this

equipment, if necessary, during a medical emergency can significantly improve survival rates.

These AED machines are in the following locations:



1. First floorReligious School hallway, to the right of the Girls' Bathroom



2. Second floorHallway in front of Frigand, to the right of the Men's Bathroom



3. Second floorRotunda, to the right of the
Chapel door (wall between the
Sanctuary & Chapel doors)

We are getting additional signage to mark these locations.

In addition, we are arranging to host Pediatric/Adult CPR, First Aid, and AED courses, which will be open to all staff, volunteers, and the full congregation. Look for an MJCBY e-blast soon with the information!

If you have any questions about security at MJCBY, want to suggest a Security Corner topic, or would like to volunteer, please email the security committee at security@mjcby.org.

PLEASE NOTE: In some cases, there are times, in addition to our security guards, when we will need MJCBY member volunteers to be door greeters during events and Friday night and Saturday morning services. Please do not ignore these pleas when you receive them. It takes a village to run a synagogue, and our village is our shul community. Please help us protect our building, especially in these heightened periods. If you would like to be on a list of potential volunteers for Door Greeter duty in the future, please email Alexis at the address above. Thank you!

DEVELOPMENT

Thank you so much for your ongoing support of MJCBY! Without your financial support, beyond your payment of dues, we cannot achieve as much as we desire. Today, we call on you to help strengthen our community by making a commitment to support our Kol Nidre and Education Endowment Fund. As of today, we do not know if matching funds will be available to us for any of our fundraising efforts going forward. Therefore, it is critical for us to reach 100% participation from our congregation for this appeal. No donation is too small or too big. We ask each of you to assess what you can afford and then just stretch a little bit more. We need to be able to fund the necessary expenses to run the daily needs of our shul and the programs that you want and need, beyond the religious aspects of our lives.

On many fronts, the last few years have been challenging and unfortunately the news has not improved. Our dues cover only a portion of the synagogue's operating budget. Maintaining the beauty of our historic building is costly, hence our Building Renovation Fund, and our Education Fund directly benefits the religious school's comprehensive programming that sets MJCBY apart from all other synagogues in our area.

As your lay leadership, we are working hard to chart the best path forward for our community, which has changed significantly over the last several years. We have begun to develop a comprehensive strategic plan, but we need your help to achieve a living plan that meets our members' needs and desires. This does <u>not</u> only mean monetary support but also your thoughts, suggestions, needs, and desires. Your input is vital and necessary for MJCBY to grow and thrive into our next century.

Our board of directors understands that there is a limit to how many fundraising requests our members are prepared to consider, and that is why our 5784 campaign will be asking you to pledge for both Kol Nidre and the Education Fund together.

We are always available to speak or to answer questions if you would like more information. Please do not hesitate to call us or text us; our mobile numbers are listed below.

Thank you again for your consideration, your past support, and your future commitment and involvement. There's nothing to say you can't give more to KN as the year goes on.

B'shalom,

Irv Cohen & Sara Forman

Development Co-Chairs (973) 615-4488 (917) 273-6185

SHALOM YELADIM-THE JUDIE GERSTEIN EARLY LEARNING CENTER



We had a very happy Hanukkah! Becky Narli, Director

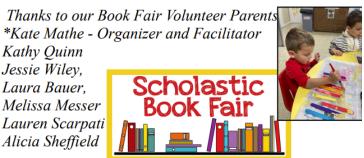
In December, Shalom Yeladim was all about spinning dreidels, singing Hanukkah songs, making menorahs, reading Hanukkah stories and preparing for our show. We have a lot of people to thank this month: Cantor Shana and Morah Shari for their dedication to the

ensuring that the children always shine, Fern, for providing and cooking all the

food, shopping for the tableware and the goody bag items, despite having a house full of family from Israel, our amazing parent volunteers, Sally Lissner, Sam Ecker, Kyle Rundles, and Meg Tobias, who were able to take a box full of random Hanukkah decor and turn the ballroom into the ultimate party place, and of course, the amazing children of Shalom Yeladim for singing their hearts out and spinning their way into our hearts. We thank Isaiah Ward for cleaning up again, and again so that we can hold our events, the Rabbi for lighting the menorah and joining our celebrations, and of course, the most supportive parents and caregivers of the children of Shalom Yeladim. Reasons to celebrate are so vital to our community.

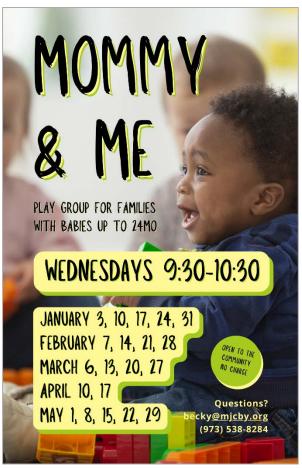
This month Shalom Yeladim donated more than \$400 to Magen David Adom! Those pennies do add up and the children love to add their coins.

Becky Narli and the SY Teachers



JANUARY CALENDAR 12/22/2023-1/1/2024 WINTER BREAK 1/2/2024 SCHOOL RESUMES 1/15/2024 MLK Jr. Day NO SCHOOL





RELIGIOUS SCHOOL



Hanukkah was a success! Miriam Loew, Director

Our Religious School students have been hard at work, making incredible progress with their Hebrew and Judaic studies. We had a lot of fun during Hanukkah acting out the story, playing all kinds of dreidel games, testing our knowledge

with Hanukkah jeopardy and more.

20 students entered the RS menorah contest and every single Menorah was simply amazing. Who knew that we had such creative students?? In the end four winners received the most votes, but in our eyes every single one was a winner. Grades 6 & 7 put on a fantastic Hanukkah play, directed by Cantor Shana. We walked together to the Green to light the Menorah and celebrate proudly in public as a Jewish community.

We have a lot planned for January and we are especially looking forward to our 6th grade B'nai Mitzvah Retreat, our 6/7th grades Shabbat, and our K-2 Havdalah Pyjama Party.

Wishing all of our students, families and staff a wonderful winter break!



We would like to thank the anonymous woman who walked into our office to bring Hanukkah gifts as a gesture of solidarity and love for the Jewish community during these difficult times. We are so touched by this beautiful act of kindness!

YOUTH SHABBAT

MINYONAIRES (Ages 12+)
Saturday, January 6th
at 9:30am

JUNIOR CONGREGATION

3rd – 7th Grade **Saturday, January 20th** 10:30am

ALP:

For Teens Grades 8-12

Tu B'Shvat and Environmental Justice

Monday, January 8th 6:30-8:30pm - dinner included

With Rabbi Gillman, Cantor Shana, Religious School Director Miriam Loew, and Guest Speakers

For more information, please email miriam@MJCBY.org

RS HANUKKAH PARTY, SHPIEL & MENORAH CONTEST





















BAR MITZVAH – ELI BROOKS

Lori and Len Brooks invite the congregation to share their joy as their son Eli Daniel Brooks is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on January 27, 2024.

Eli is in the 7th grade at Randolph Middle School. He enjoys math and social studies. He started at Shalom Yeladim in the Mommy and Me class and is happy to be celebrating his Bar Mitzvah with some of the same friends he made as a preschooler. Eli enjoys

playing soccer with his Randolph Club team and is also a Boy Scout. He likes watching sports, rooting for his favorite teams, and playing video games. He also loves to ski. Eli enjoys traveling, vacationing at the beach, and spending time with his family. Eli started at Camp Deeny Riback at an early age and now attends Camp Ramah in the Berkshires, just like his older sister and brother, Rachel and Zachary. Eli, like the rest of the family, lives "10 for 2" and can always tell you how many days until the first day of camp. He is looking forward to returning to camp this summer.

For his Bar Mitzvah Project, Eli volunteered with his mom at Homeless Solutions. He was interested in helping in his local community. He helped with children living in the shelter, while their parents were taking classes. He enjoyed playing games and doing crafts with them.

We would like to thank Cantor Shana, Rabbi Gillman, Miriam Loew and all the of teachers at Shalom Yeladim and in the religious school at MJCBY. They have all contributed to furthering Eli's Jewish education. We feel fortunate to be part of this wonderful synagogue community.

JEWISH YOUNG COMMUNITY OF NEW JERSEY (JYC)

Nathan Vaisbort <u>iycnewjersey@gmail.com</u> or (862) 217-4942 Asher Weinstein <u>aweinstein68@gmail.com</u> Co-Chairs, Jacob Levy, Writer/Editor

Hanukkah Shabbat

Hey JYC'ers,

A big thank you to each and every one of you who made our Hanukkah Shabbat and Dinner event an absolute blast! We want to extend our deepest gratitude for joining us and turning this into our largest event ever (71 people). Your presence truly made it a night to remember!

Special shoutouts to Cantor Jacob Greenberg, Cantor Shana Onigman, and Rabbi Adam Gillman for leading an awe-inspiring service that added a beautiful touch to the evening. Your contributions were nothing short of amazing! Let's also give a round of applause to the incredible MJCBY volunteers and Cantor Shana Onigman for whipping up a Hanukkah meal that was nothing short of a feast – Matzah ball soup, latkes, kugel, salmon, and more. You filled our hearts and bellies with joy!

Ready to Make a Difference?

From vibrant Shabbat dinners to exhilarating hikes and impactful social action events — your generosity shapes the experiences that matter most to us. When you contribute to JYC, you're not just donating; you're making a difference. Your support helps us continue creating unique events and unforgettable experiences that bring our community closer. Join us in building a community that thrives on meaningful connections, diverse traditions, and shared growth.

Your donations are not only appreciated but also taxdeductible, supporting the mission of the Jewish Young Community. To donate online, go to the payment page on the MJCBY website and select "Jewish Young Community (JYC)" under "payment details." Once again, thank you for being the heartbeat of JYC. We couldn't have asked for a better community!



January Shabbat

On January 12th, JYC will be having its next Shabbat dinner at Morristown Jewish Center Beit Yisrael (MJCBY). Services will begin at 6:15 PM, followed by dinner at 7:15 PM. New members are always welcome to attend. Secure your spot early through OneTable! The first 30 registrants will receive free admission. An \$18 fee will be required for all subsequent registrations.

Stay Up to Date

Join us on **Facebook**; **Instagram**; **Meetup.com** to stay informed about upcoming events. Discover more on our very own JYC Website (BETA version) at **JYCNewJersey.com**.

LIFELONG LEARNING



Hanukkah kept us busy all December! Miriam Loew, Director

We started the festivities with a delicious Latke Shabbat dinner and continued with our annual Hanukkah Play & Party. Our building hustled and bustled with activity as children and adults enjoyed a myriad of Hanukkah activities and treats. Finally, we gathered on the Morristown Green as we sang Hanukkah songs, lit the Menorah, ate Sufganiyot, and celebrated the festival of lights!

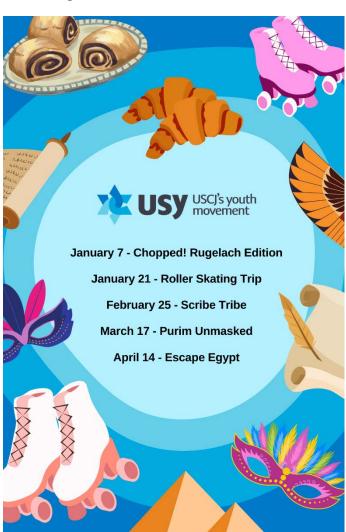
One of the highlights of December was an Israel event we hosted at MJCBY for area teens. Close to 30 teens enjoyed dinner together and a special Israel workshop led by Avi Siegel from JFedGMW.

Our USY Teens had a blast celebrating Hanukkah with a Chopped Latke competition. Cantor Shana and Rabbi Gillman acted as our brave judges. All teams came up with incredibly delicious and creative Latke dishes. Due to popular demand, there will be a repeat of Chopped in January - Rugelach edition.

Our Better Together students visited Lester Senior Living to deliver Hanukkah goodies and gifts and spread Hanukkah cheer. What a Mitzvah!

Our young families enjoyed a BLUE Shabbat in December and are looking forward to YELLOW Shabbat in January. We ended the month and the year 2023 with a delicious, kosher Chinese New Years dinner.





We are proud to have hosted 27 teens on the evening of December 4th for a valuable dialogue about Israel. Great questions! Great discussion! Thank you to Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ and Avi Siegel for leading our conversation. #lamGMW

Better Together Spreading Hanukkah Cheer at Lester





USY Chopped Latke Competition





Hanukkah on the Green





SISTERHOOD NEWS & EVENTS

JUDAICA GIFT SHOP

The Sisterhood Judaica Gift Shop is open Sunday mornings during religious school hours and by appointment during the week. To make a shopping appointment, contact us at giftshop@mjcby.org. You may also review our various merchandise catalogs that are posted on the MJCBY website under Sisterhood or by selecting the Sisterhood Judaica Shop link on the Support tab on the home page. Support Your Sisterhood-Support Your Shul! Note: Gift Certificates are available for purchase through the Gift Shop.

MARJORIE ELKIND SISTERHOOD BOOK GROUP

We are reviewing the book SHANDA: A Memoir of Shame and Secrecy by Letty Cottin Pogrebin on Thursday, January 18th. Place to be announced at a later date. For more info, please contact Amy Brunswick at abrunswick 4321@gmail.com

KIDDUSH COMMITTEE

The **Kiddush Committee** needs your help to prepare the kiddush luncheon each week. Please contact Dorothy Cohen

(dorothy irvingcohen@msn.com) for more info.

BECOME A KIDDUSH SPONSOR

Share a special occasion with us by becoming a KIDDUSH SPONSOR. You and your honoree will be announced and thanked by the Rabbi from the

Bimah. Contact Dorothy Cohen for an updated menu and details. To donate, send your check made out to: MJCBY Kiddush, Attn: Kiddush Fund, 177 Speedwell Ave, Morristown, NJ 07960. Please include the occasion and your honoree! Questions? Email Dorothy irvingcohen@msn.com

JOIN SISTERHOOD FOR 2023-2024 YEAR

If you have not joined the Sisterhood yet, we'd like to encourage you to do so. Your \$36 membership donation supports our Synagogue and the Women's League for Conservative Judaism and provides us with the opportunity to offer educational and fun community building events. Send a check payable to MJCBY Sisterhood, earmark it as dues on the bottom left line, and you'll be able to take part in all of the fun and exciting events we offer!

The MJCBY sisterhood proudly donated \$1800 to federations Israeli emergency fund. Our hearts are with our brothers and sisters in Israel. May peace return to Eretz Israel!





Tuesday evening, December 5th, the Morristown Jewish Center Beit Yisrael Sisterhood Marjorie Elkind Book Group met to discuss 'Dinners with Ruth' authored by NPR reporter Nina Totenberg. 5 'zoomers' and 6 in person attendees all of whom - looking at the smiles - enjoyed the discussion. As we do each time, in honor of Marjorie, we start by reading the first line of the book aloud. "With Ruth, I

always thought there would be a next time." Well written, a wonderful story about 2 women who met long before either had achieved their noteworthy positions.



TORAH FUND CAMPAIGN OF WLCJ PIN 5784

Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh Ba'Zeh

(2023-2024)





This pin highlights the word 'arevut,' responsibility. It corresponds to the theme from the Babylonian Talmud, Shevuot 39a, that all the people of Israel are responsible for one another, and we assume that responsibility through our support of the five Conservative/Masorti institutions of higher education.

MAKE IT A PRIORITY TO GIVE TO TORAH FUND!

TORAH FUND GIVING LEVELS

Keter Kavod \$5,000 Scholarship Patron \$2,500 Patron \$1,200 Associate Patron \$600 Guardian \$300 For more information, contact Linda Rosenbaum

Text or call: 973-214-0704

Send checks to: 4 Ascot Lane, Morristown, NJ 07960

Torah Fund Cards are also available in the Gift Shop!

GOOD & WELFARE

CONDOLENCES TO:

Meryl Balaban and family on the passing of her beloved mother, Phyllis Osherow

REFUAH SHLEMA TO:

Flo & Joe Sager, Meryl Balaban, Debbie Brody, Cookie & Morton Wertheimer, Lisa Pollak, Joan Cohen, Steve Neibart, Sharon Kellman, Joyce Litchman, Jeff Czeisler, Sue Jacobowitz, Ron Saltzman, Rabbi David Nesson, Joel & Ginger Beecher, Linda Rosenbaum, Richard Rubenstein, Tom Schofield, Meredith Charak, Michael Gooen, Larry Levin



Sharon Barkauskas, Vivian Laska, Kim Synalovski, Janet Appelbaum, and Ivy Rubin

A few "Tree of Life" items available in the Judaica Gift Shop











Support your Sisterhood....Support your Shul!

MEN'S CLUB

Mark Levine, President

The MJCBY Men's Book Club has announced its winter/spring schedule. All meet at 7:30pm. If you are interested in joining us, please contact howardbuxbaum@gmail.com

January 4th Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver

February 7th Trust by Herman Diaz

March 6th The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride

April 3rd All Other Nights by Dara Horn May 1st All the Sinners Bleed by SA Cosby

June 5th TBD

Hanukkah Hockey Night at the Devils – Dec 17th



INCLUSION COMMITTEE

MJCBY Builds an Inclusion Committee!

Rebecca Wanatick, Chair

At MJCBY, we pride ourselves in being an inclusive and welcoming Jewish community. Feeling that each of us has a place to belong and contribute to community is key to wanting to be more involved. We are doing a great job, but we also know that there are ways in which we can do better.

We are taught, "Lo alecha hamlacha ligmor, v'lo atah ben chorin l'hivatel mimena" – "You are not expected to complete the task, but neither are you free to avoid it." (Rabbi Tarfon, Pirkei Avot 2:21) As we continue to grow and expand our programming to best meet the needs of our community, we are seeking your input to better understand how we move forward.

We are developing an Inclusion Committee to explore the ways in which we can better engage and meet the needs of all members of our community, with an initial focus on disability and LGBTQ+ communities. We will begin by developing 2 small working groups focused on addressing these areas. If you are interested in participating in either group, please contact Becca Wanatick at rwanatick@gmail.com.

SOCIAL ACTION

Volunteer Opportunities Abound!

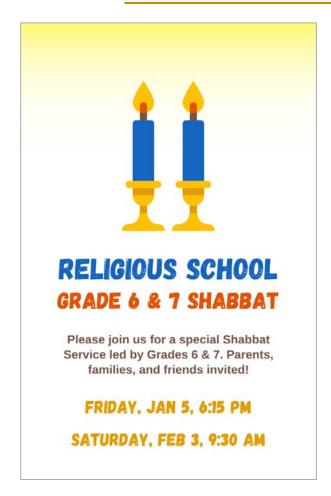
Lou Bodian & Howard Buxbaum, Social Action Chairs

Loub48@Gmail.com - HowardBuxbaum@Gmail.com

The Social Action Committee is organizing several events that will provide needed supplies and services to those less fortunate in our community, while enabling groups of our members to work together in pursuit of these commitments. Read ahead to see if something sparks your interest.

- Group Cooking a Dinner at Homeless Solutions get together with friends and help to prepare a meal at our local homeless shelter. We will do this in April of 2024.
- Help Assemble Breakfast Bags for NourishNJ contact Rachel Richman <u>Rachel.D.Richman@gmail.com</u>
- Purchase winter clothing or \$25 gift cards for those living in a shelter environment contact Rita Fand at <u>RitaFand@gmail.com</u>
- Help set up and staff a farmer's market at Morristown's Bethel AME Church for the Table of Hope operation – contact Sue Wallenstein at susanjw3@gmail.com
- Work with Jewish Family Services to assist children, elders and other vulnerable individuals served by Federation MetroWest
- Participate in Reading Buddies a program sponsored by Jewish Family Services, to work with elementary school students for an hour a week contact icramer-le@ifsmetrowest.org
- Pair with a Senior as part of Tessie's Touch, another JFS program contact truszczyk@jfsmetrowest.org
- Work with the Maxine Myers JFS Volunteer Services group in a variety of activities benefitting local Jews contact JCramer-Le@jfsmetrowest.org
- Participate in a kosher food drive organized by Chabad of Morristown. We will be hosting this event in our building in the Fall of 2024. Contact Lou Bodian at Loub48@Gmail.com
- Come out for our 3rd Annual Mitzvah Day on April 7th, 2024 to help those in need
- Sign up to provide a BackPack and school supplies for a local HeadStart student. We have committed
 to provide 60 such backpacks. Contact Howard Buxbaum at howardBuxbaum@Gmail.com or Lou
 Bodian at LouB48@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE - FEBRUARY EVENTS







CONTRIBUTIONS (Nov 24th through Dec 21st)

Alex Csillag Memorial Fund

 Patti Tuschman in memory of Kate Csillag.

Building Renovation Fund

- Lee & Linda Rosenbaum in memory of Phyllis Osherow, beloved mother of Meryl Balaban.
- JCF of Metrowest

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

- Martin & Joan Cohen in memory of William Cohen.
- Ilene Dorf Manahan in memory of Harriette & Louis Dorf.
- Steve & Amy Gardberg

Cantor's Shabbat Dinner Fund

 Susan Wallenstein for donations made on 10/15 & 11/15 of 2023.

Education Endowment Fund

- Irwin & Beverly Berns in memory of Irwin Messinger.
- Elinor Grayzel in honor of Cantor Shana for her Friday classes.

Gemilut Hasadim Society

 Hedy Starr in memory of Harry Morchower, Helen Morchower, and Stephen Starr.

- Beth Abramson in honor of Rebecca Abramson Wanatick receiving the Kavod Award.
- Alex & Marilyn Miller in memory of A. Westerman.

Helen Morchower Flower Fund General Donation

- Harold & Karen Jenkins in honor of the birth of our granddaughter, Carly Ann Jenkins and in honor of the marriage of Rabbi Gillman and Leah Silver.
- Harold & Karen Jenkins in memory of Rose Lagunoff, Karen's grandmother & Anne Jenkins, Harold's mother.

Jewish Young Community (JYC)

- Daniel Rubin in memory of Laura Krimsky.
- Ashley Thibault in memory of our fallen brothers and sisters.
 May their memory be a blessing.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- Richard Greif in memory of Helen Pundyk.
- Adam & Robin Kane in memory of Sherry Bialer.

- Martin & Joyce London in memory of Sally London.
- Steven & Carol Tobias in honor of Rabbi Gillman & Leah Silver's wedding.
- Susan Wallenstein in honor of Rabbi Gillman & Leah Silver's marriage.
- Jack & Jill Weinberg in memory of Belle Weinberg.
- Peter & Marilyn Loeb in memory of Erwin Loeb.

Social Action Fund

- Howard Buxbaum & Paula Barber in memory of Jack Buxbaum.
- Bill & Susan Neigher in memory of Molly Neigher & Sarah Rubinson.
- Alan & Kay Salzman in memory of Phyllis Osherow, beloved mother of Meryl Balaban.

Yahrzeit Fund

- Michael & Karen Gooen in memory of Bessie Goldman.
- Warren & Ann Rhines in memory of Phillip Rhines.
- Ruth Van Vort in memory of Miriam Toffel.

<u>FUNDS YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO</u>: Alex Csillag Memorial Fund, Building Renovation Fund, Cantor's Discretionary Fund, Cantor's Shabbat Dinner Fund, Chevra Kadisha, Education Endowment Fund, Frigand Minyonaires & Israel Experience Fund, Gemilut Hasadim (Caring Committee) Fund, General Donation, History Fund, Jewish Young Community (JYC), Kiddush Fund, Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, Shalom Yeladim Nursery School Fund, Social Action Fund, and Yahrzeit Fund.

JANUARY YAHRZEITS

To Be Remo	To Be Remembered Shabbat Jan 5 & 6				
1/6/24		Isaac Gindes*			
1/0/24	25 16461	Erwin Loeb			
		Millie Rapp			
		Henry D Rubenstein*			
1/7/24	26 Tevet	Helen Green			
1///24	ZOTEVEL	Dorothea Samuels			
1/8/24	27 Tevet	Raymond Glick			
1/6/24	27 Tevet	William Greenberg*			
		Mollie Grossbard			
		Norman Posner			
		Sara Scheinman			
4 /0 /04	20.7	Nathan Socol			
1/9/24	28 Tevet	Isaac Sokol			
. / /		Sydelle Wallenstein			
1/10/24	29 Tevet	Edward Eig			
		Irving Lakind			
		Charlotte Schimel			
		Ida Silverstein*			
1/11/24	1 Shevat	Ann Lee Stein			
		Sophie Stolzenberg			
		Leslie Warshaw			
1/12/24	2 Shevat	Mildred Gold*			
		Victor Iskowitz			
		Sylvia Kletzkin*			
		Marilyn Schwartz			
		Garry Weingarten*			
To Be Rem	embered Sha	abbat Jan 12 & 13			
1/13/24	3 Shevat	Donald Ganz			
		Rhoda Rosenbach			
		Samuel Stern*			
1/14/24	4 Shevat	Esther Elman			
		Kenneth Gooen			
		Richard Hart*			
		Harry Kornbleuth*			
		Roger Levy			
		Bertha Loeb*			
		Sima Pincow			
		Kraine Poner*			
1/15/24	5 Shevat	Lynne Cowan			
		Natalie Richter*			
1/16/24	6 Shevat	Leah Bayever			
		Herbert Hirsch*			

		Glela Sharp
		Ruth Weinstein
1/17/24	7 Shevat	Norman Galembo*
, ,		Rita Hertz
		Theodore R. Kates*
		Rachel Karesh Lewis
1/18/24	8 Shevat	Sheila Cohen
		Irvin Dansicker*
		Arlene Reff
		Jerry Rovak
		Martha Spivak
		Karl Steinberger
1/19/24	9 Shevat	Theodore Barkauskas
, -,		Norman Scheer
		Ruth Slotsky
To Be Remo	embered Sha	bbat Jan 19 & 20
1/20/24	10 Shevat	Golda Brandt
		Harry Ginsberg*
		Theodore Held
		Don Juros
		Sumner Nudel
1/21/24	11 Shevat	Abraham Koenig
		L.D. Kornreich
		Marvis Rosenbaum*
		Max Schapiro
		Pauline Glass Seifer*
1/22/24	12 Shevat	Gabriela Ginsberg
		Mark Lakind
		Shirley Levy
		Goldie Sklaver
		Pauline Zudick*
1/23/24	13 Shevat	Irving Grossman
		William Kolsky*
		Nacie Salny
		Celia Shustin*
		Lynne Small
		Paul Weiner
		Herman Weissman
		Eleanor Loeb Yellin*
1/24/24	14 Shevat	Marjorie Elkind*
		Mary Feurstein
		George Golding*
		Harry Pikus

1/25/24	15 Shevat	Irwin Bialer*
		Rose Hirsch
		Joseph Katz*
		Samuel E. Lewis
1/26/24	16 Shevat	Diane Levitt
		Judy Newmark
		Stuart Rosenblum*
		Hilde Spain*
To Be Reme	embered Sha	bbat Jan 26 & 27
1/27/24	17 Shevat	Sigmund Beck
, ,		Margie Sidman*
1/28/24	18 Shevat	Irving Chojnowski
		Roberta Gerwin
		Sigmar Guggenheimer*
		Frieda Reinheimer*
		Benjamin Schatman
		Richard Schleifstein*
		Sol Stolzenberg
1/29/24	19 Shevat	Trudie Baum
		Rachel Berger*
		Lois Chasin
		Betty Dickinson
		Kurt Lewin
		Jack Ulman
1/30/24	20 Shevat	Anna Charm
		Frances Ellenberg
		Ruth Ostrager Fisher
		Edith Fleischman
		Joseph Freid
		Alexander Glasser*
		Nathan Kolsky*
		Sylvia Leff
		William Samuels
		George Wolff
1/31/24	21 Shevat	Alexander Fox*
		Anna Friedman*
		Henry Katz
		George Michaels
		Rachel Shraer





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> James E. Dangler 1948 - 2005



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Fellow - American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML)

Co-Chair of the Family Law Department

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esolotoff@foxrothschild.com blog: njfamilylaw.foxrothschild.com

www.foxrothschild.com



Beth Israel Cemetery Association

Ridgedale Avenue, Cedar Knolls

Plots available for Congregation Members

For information call: 973-538-4606 Website: www.bethisraelcemetery.com

Opportunities for volunteers to help with flags for Memorial Day & Veterans Day

Cemetery is closed on the Sabbath



