

TEMPLE



TOPICS

CHESHVAN/KISLEV/TEVET 5778

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017

Rabbi's Message

Why My Anger?

Before each Bar or Bat Mitzvah service, Cantor Perper or I welcome and orient our teen guests to our service, which prayerbook to use and, among other things, tell them how much we appreciate their presence. We try to treat them like *menschen* (decent people) and usually they live up to our expectations... *full article on page 3*

President's Message

December Dilemma

...I have often been asked why our family joined BHSS, and as a follow-up, what made us stay. The answers are different, but both are related to our community being inclusive. We might've stayed for the kids' education, but I don't think we could have remained in a place where we felt "less-than" or where my husband was seen as the spouse of a member instead of a member himself... *full article on page 2*

Educator's Message

Winter is Coming

...we will post a notice on the front page of our website, there will be an outgoing message on the school's voice mailbox, a notification will go up on cancellations.com (where you can also sign up for email alerts) and we will send emails to the address we have on file for your family... *full article on page 4*

B'NEI MITZVOT

Ally & Tyler Grobman 11/4
Chase Kelman & Warren Schindler 11/11
Madeline Leibman & Jonah Wunder 11/18
Natalie Morgan & Jesse Sobel 11/25
Isabella Levine & Michael Savino 12/2
William Silver 12/16

**MAZEL TOV
to BHSS on OUR
10th ANNIVERSARY
YEAR!!!**

THINGS TO DO:

*more info on back cover
and throughout*

Torah Study
Book and a Bagel
Intro to Judaism
Mussar:
 Seeking Everyday Holiness
Enter and/or enjoy Latke Contest
Dare Toy Drive
Library Program:
 Jews From Far Away Places
Community Menorah Lighting
Wanaque Children's Hospital Visit
Jewish Basics Program

**Happy
Chanukah
and New Year!**



President's Message

Jen Cole

December Dilemma

Writing these articles is tricky, not just because it's hard to find time when so much else is going on, but because it's challenging to write "ahead" of time. Let me explain: As I type these words, Sukkot is coming to an end, but by the time this falls into your hands we'll be looking toward Thanksgiving, Chanukah ... and that *other* holiday too.

Much has been written over the years regarding how interfaith families handle what has been referred to as the "December Dilemma," but truth be told, the challenge and beauty of deciding how to respectfully and successfully blend family traditions is not limited to these holidays, but is an ongoing process.

You may have heard that my son injured his knee during the High Holy Days, and required surgery. My husband Matt stayed home with him as he recovered on Yom Kippur. When I returned from services, I was surprised and touched to see a nearly finished Sukkah on our deck. I thanked him, then gently teased, "*Who builds a sukkah on Yom Kippur?!? That can't be kosher!*"

I have often been asked why our family joined BHSS, and as a follow-up, what made us stay. The answers are different, but both are related to our community being inclusive. We might've stayed for the kids' education, but I don't think we could have remained in a place where we felt "less-than" or where my husband was seen as the spouse of a member instead of a member himself.

I've shared pieces of our story before so you may recall that when we first joined, we were reluctant members who were simply looking for a place for our children to have exposure to education about God and Judaism, because they had questions that we felt ill-prepared to answer.

Fast forward thirteen years; I am serving as president. I can say with certainty that I have gained as much if not more knowledge than my children and my Jewish identity has evolved.

So why is it when winter rolls around, I feel conflicted and hesitant to be forthcoming about the choices we have made with regards to the December Dilemma? Why do I fear being judged for diluting our Jewishness, confusing our children or offending my non-Jewish friends for partaking in a

celebration of a holiday that is not mine? Why am I choosing a public audience for this stream of consciousness confession? Not sure, but here goes...

Matt's family has always gathered on December 24th for a lovely celebration, complete with roaring fireplace, beautifully wrapped gifts, delicious food, etc. and since meeting him I have been not merely included but embraced. When the time arose to nominate a new venue for this annual event, our home was the obvious choice. We had the space. We had the kids who had to go to bed early. We had the culinary skills (not to mention Martha Stewart-like ambitions for cookie decorating). So we took charge of Christmas Eve and despite our Jewish journey (or perhaps even because of it), we have never let go.

We have made a concerted effort to give Chanukah its separate and due place in our home, and not to lose one tradition over the other, but when the timing does not allow for a natural separation we have been known to serve latkes alongside the filet. We don't limit ourselves to blue and white lights or carols sung exclusively by Barbara and Neil (and avoid the seemingly misguided compilation "*Oy to the World: A Klezmer Christmas*" – yes, it is an actual track!). We don't refer to it as *Erev* Christmas...You get the idea, we do Christmas Eve, tree and all. No Chinese food, no movie.

I have come to love the evening we create for Matt's family and enjoy hosting them, along with friends and neighbors of various faith backgrounds, who have joined us along the way. We stay up too late, eat and drink too much, and then get up in the morning to head over to the Wanaque Children's Center where we carry the Christmas spirit to those who need it most, joining what has grown to be a significant group of BHSS carolers. It is then that we are reminded of our Jewish identity and are again with our beloved community.

I also *really* love (despite his timing) that Matt builds us a Sukkah.

Whatever your family traditions are (and I'd love to hear about them) my very best wishes for a meaningful season of gratitude, miracles and light.

Thanks for letting me share. And I promise I'll try to write something more Jewish next time.

— Jen Cole, President

Why My Anger?

Before each Bar or Bat Mitzvah service, Cantor Perper or I welcome and orient our teen guests to our service, which prayerbook to use and, among other things, tell them how much we appreciate their presence. We try to treat them like *menschen* (decent people) and usually they live up to our expectations. However, at a past service, a small group of student-guests arrived late, sat towards the back, and were never welcomed or oriented. Toward the end of the service, after the Bar Mitzvah parents offered their blessing for their child, the congregation broke out singing *Siman Tov u'Mazal Tov* in celebration. As the members of the congregation sang and clapped, this small group of kids began clapping too fast and too loudly while making silly faces at one another and at the Bar Mitzvah on the bima. I became more irritated than I have been in a long time, and at my first opportunity, I walked over to the group and spoke to them about their behavior.

In the moment, I was thinking about our kids who were sitting in the congregation watching their friends (it seemed to me) belittling their celebration, and it upset me deeply. I felt like I was protecting our kids who already feel different being a Jew in America. When I related the story to my wife Sandy, she asked me why I was so indignant, and it didn't take much reflection for me to realize that my behavior was neither noble nor effective. It was a moment of exasperation, albeit for a principled reason, but it wasn't a moment of triumph. It didn't help those young guests to understand the meaning of this ceremony; it didn't help them to gain an appreciation for Jews or Judaism, nor, I suspect, did it make our own kids feel prouder of Judaism.

It is easy to let our emotions get the better of us, and even easier to justify our emotional outbursts as proper and noble. In hindsight, I have my doubts about the benefit of my anger. It is easier to judge our past actions in a rear-view mirror, but

Rabbi's Message

Rabbi Barry Diamond



the goal of living a more mindful life is to create greater distance between the match and the fuse, between a frustrating situation and mindless outbursts.

The goal of the study of our **Seeking Everyday Holiness** class is to provide tools and ideas that help us to recognize our own human frailties and to catch ourselves more quickly when we feel our emotions welling over. If you have ever acted rashly or dismissively, if you have been meek when you should have been strong or talked too much and listened too little; in other words, if you have been a normal human adult, then the study of Jewish ethical principles and practices (*Mussar*), can bring you wisdom and self-understanding. Our ten-session **Seeking Everyday Holiness** class begins on November 15 at 7:30 p.m. and it is a meaningful way to discover how Jewish thought and practice can have a powerful, transformative effect. I hope you can join us.

Rabbi Barry Diamond

Michelle Mitvah Group

Chanukah Candles

available for sale

\$10

Contact Lisa Lamster

lisalams@optonline.net

or the office





From the Educator's Office

Rebecca McVeigh

Winter is Coming

This is the edition of Temple Topics where we talk about the inclement weather we may or may not have - eventually, and how you can find out if school is canceled. So, here it is: we will post a notice on the front page of our website, there will be an outgoing message on the school's voice mailbox, a notification will go up on cancellations.com (where you can also sign up for email alerts) and we will send emails to the address we have on file for your family.



I will also post on Facebook – both on my personal page and on the BHSS main page. If you feel that the weather conditions where you are may be too dangerous to travel in, even if we have not cancelled school, then let us know that you are not venturing out. That being said, let's hope for a mild winter or, at the very least, snowfalls that help us decide definitively one way or the other!



Our first couple of months of religious school have included, of course, learning about the fall holidays, jumping right back into Hebrew and prayer learning for our older students, and beginning to explore what it means to be Jewish with our students who are just starting. We got to shake the lulav and smell the etrog in our sukkah, wash away our "sins" with washable marker on paper towels, learn new songs with Mrs. Koch in the sanctuary, and pray with Cantor Perper on Tuesdays. The Family School enjoyed a special *S'lichot* program and Kadimah kicked off with electives like drum circle, Jewish humor, and The Great Tzedakah Project, which has already raised over \$200 for the charities that the teens will select over the coming months.

We welcomed new staff members who we are proud to say are products of our school – now graduated from college, working at their day jobs and sharing their talents with



us. If you see them, please say hello (and "welcome home!") to **Rebeca Berger**, teaching in Family School, and **Rachel Crouch**, teaching in Kadimah.

For those of you who are reading and do not have children enrolled in school BUT are curious about having them try out our amazing monthly PreK class or our Monday afternoon kindergarten, first, second and third grades, it is NOT TOO LATE! Please give me a call to arrange a "test visit" for your child to see just how much we have to offer. And for friends who may not yet be members, we welcome them to come for a visit as well. For students in 3rd grade who join late, we have ways to help them catch up with any Hebrew learning they may have missed.

There are great opportunities to join us in our programming for Chanukah, and I hope you will take advantage of them and mark your calendars now. (See the bottom of this page for details.) I wish you a wonderful winter holiday season and look forward to seeing you soon!



Rebecca Bernstein McVeigh, Educator

Tuesday, December 12 at 6 p.m.
Come one, come all to the Community Menorah Lighting – 4th & 5th graders leading songs; donuts and hot chocolate!

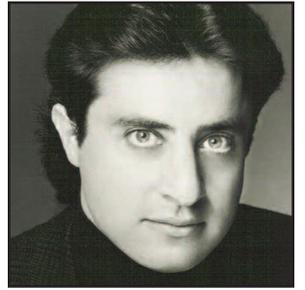
Sunday, December 17 at 11 a.m.
join your 6th graders for t'filah with Cantor Perper

Monday, December 18 at 4 p.m.
join your K – 3rd graders for the annual Chanukah singalong and latkes

From the Cantor

Coffeeshouse Cantors!

David Perper



Coffeeshouse Cantors

“Thanks for Chanukah!:)”

Back after their extended european tour!



Cantors Perper
and Steinsnyder and friends
Beth Haverim Shir Shalom
Saturday evening
December 2, 7:30pm

Details to come... stay tuned

2017/2018 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Barry Diamond, Interim Rabbi	214-394-0421	rabbibdiamond@gmail.com
Cantor David Perper	201-934-1894	cantorperper@earthlink.net
Educator, Rebecca McVeigh	201-512-1983	schoolatbethhav@optonline.net
Administrator, Iris Greenberg	201-512-1983	irisgreenberg@optonline.net
Administrative Assistant, Lisa Barrack	201-512-1983	bethhaverim@optonline.net
President, Jennifer Cole	201-891-2438	thecole6@yahoo.com
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Sisterhood Co. Pres., Leslie Sapienza	201-760-8972	sapienz@optonline.net
Sisterhood Co. Pres., Sheryl Thailer	201-236-5055	sthailer@optonline.net
Brotherhood		president@bhssbrotherhood.org
Michelle Mitzvah Group, Chair, Steve Simon	201 788-6755	steveoum@verizon.net
Dir. of Youth Programming, Brittany Silverman	551-427-8368	bsilvermanbhss@gmail.com
Youth Group, Sophie Pavon, President	551-579-1642	sophiepavon13@gmail.com

2017/2018 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

BUILDING & GROUNDS, Jim DuBroff	201-327-7014	jimdubroff@yahoo.com
BUILDING & GROUNDS, Harris Reinstein	201-652-0898	harrisreinstein@msn.com
CARING, Candy Kasover	201-934-8229	candy1951@optonline.net
CARING, Laura Miller	201-337-4503	mlctsmiller@verizon.net
COMMUNICATIONS, Lisa Lamster	201-760-1935	lisalams@optonline.net
ENDOWMENT, Harvey Weinberg	646-364-8417	harvey.weinberg@oliverwyman.com
EDUCATION, Lauren Einhorn	201-447-7094	laureneinhorn16@gmail.com
LIBRARY, Sheryl Ives	201-794-1017	sjives17@yahoo.com
LIBRARY, Ruth Turner	845-351-5732	rgtt@optonline.net
LIFELONG LEARNING, Lori Yanowitz	201-445-3613	lyanowit@ramapo.edu
LIFELONG LEARNING, Nancy Levene	201-236-6059	nblevene@gmail.com
MEMBERSHIP, Stacey Coyne	845-369-3896	staceycoy@aol.com
MUSIC, Chair, Nora Berger	201-703-0132	niberger@aol.com
OUTREACH, Jane Young	201-327-1281	jnapfy@aol.com
RITUAL, Debbie Royal	201-962-3103	dsroyal@optonline.net
RITUAL, Judy Teich	845-512-8506	judy.teich@gmail.com
SOCIAL ACTION, Whitney Speer	201-825-2441	whitneyspeer@msn.com



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Scotter Kraft

Madeline Leibman

Jayden Luftman

Eliana Panoff

Alex Popowitz

Alex Roberts

Alex Schnellwar

Ethan Schwartz

Benjamin Shamosh

Annabel Theodore

Candlelighting times:

November 3 – 5:31 pm Vayeira
 November 10 – 4:23 pm Chayei Sarah
 November 17 – 4:17 pm Toldot
 November 24 – 4:13 pm Vayeitzei

December 1 – 4:11 pm Vayishlach
 December 8 – 4:10 pm Vayeishev
 December 15 – 4:11 pm Mikeitz
 December 22 – 4:14 pm Vayigash
 December 29 – 4:19 pm Vay'chi



November Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			8 pm Adult Choir		6:00 pm Family Service	Vayeira 8:15 am Torah Study 10 am Ally & Tyler Grobman
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9 am FS & 6 11:30 am Group Class 1 pm Mitzvah Day 1 pm Book & A Bagel	No School	No School 7:30 pm Ritual	8 pm Adult Choir		7:30 pm Tefilot	Chayei Sarah 8:15 am Torah Study 10 am Chase Kelman & Warren Schindler
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
No School	4 pm School K-3 6:45 pm Kadimah 7 pm Sisterhood Off-site	4 pm School 4/5 6:30 pm Group Class 7:30 pm Executive Comm. 7:30 pm MMG	7 pm Jewish Basics LLL 7:30 pm Seeking Everyday Holiness 8 pm Adult Choir		5:15 pm Tot Shabbat 7:30 pm Tefilot	Tol'dot 8:15 am Torah Study 10 am Madeline Leibman & Jonah Wunder
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9 am FS & 6 11:30 & 1 YG Events 1 pm Jewish Basics 3 pm Sis'hood Silk Scarves	4 pm School K-3 6:45 pm Kadimah	4 pm School 4/5 7:30 pm Board Mtg.	8 pm Adult Choir	Office Closed	Office Closed 7:30 pm Tefilot	Vayeitzei 8:15 am Torah Study 10 am Natalie Morgan & Jesse Sobel
26	27	28	29	30		
No School	No School	4 pm School 4/5 6:30 pm Group Class 7:30 pm Social Act. 7:30 pm Music Comm.	7:30 pm Seeking Everyday Holiness			

December Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					6:00 pm Family Service Latke Cook-Off	1 Vayishlach 2 8:15 am Torah Study 10 am Isabella Levine & Michael Savino 7:30 pm Coffeeshouse
3 9 am FS & 6 11:30 am Group Class	4 4 pm School K-3 6:45 pm Kadimah	5 4 pm School 4/5 6:30 pm Group Class 7:30 pm Ritual	6 8 pm Adult Choir	7	8 7:30 pm Tefilot	9 Vayeishev 8:15 am Torah Study
10 9 am FS & 6 11:30 am Group Class 1 pm Jews in Foreign Places	11 4 pm School K-3 4 pm PreK 6:45 pm Kadimah 7 pm Sis'hood Off- Site	12 4 pm School 4/5 6 pm Menorah Lighting 7:30 pm Exec. Comm. 7:30 pm MMG	13 7:30 pm Seeking Everyday Holiness 8 pm Adult Choir	14	15 5:15 pm Tot Shabbat 7:30 pm Shabbat Chanukah	16 Mikeitz 8:15 am Torah Study 10 am William Silver
17 9 am FS & 6 11:30 am Group Class 1 pm Menschmakers	18 4 pm School K-3 4 pm PreK 6:45 pm Kadimah	19 4 pm School 4/5 6:30 pm Group Class 7:30 pm Board Mtg.	20 8 pm Adult Choir	21	22 7:30 pm Tefilot	23 Vayigash 8:15 am Torah Study 10 am T'filah
24 No School	25 Office Closed No School	26 No School 7:30 pm Music Comm.	27 8 pm Adult Choir	28	29 7:30 pm Tefilot	30 Vay'chi 8:15 am Torah Study
31 No School						

...will be called to the Torah...



Ally Grobman – November 4, 2017

Lives in Mahwah, New Jersey. Mother, Jodi, Father, Bruce, Brothers, Tyler, 14 and Matthew, 14 is an 8th grader at Ramapo Ridge Middle School Her interests include all kinds of sports. “I’d like to be a doctor. I feel great, and I’m really excited. For my community service I volunteered at the Promenade helping senior citizens do activities and I also helped out in community gardens.”



Tyler Grobman – November 4, 2017

Lives in Mahwah, New Jersey. Mother, Jodi, Father, Bruce, Brother, Matthew, 14, Sister, Ally, 14 is a 9th grader at Mahwah High School His interests include sports and school. “I want to be sure I complete my Hebrew without messing up! I feel very honored and very special. I am very happy that this day is happening. For my community service project I volunteered with the Oakland Achievers, helping handicapped kids play football. I also volunteered at the Center for Food Action and in community gardens.”



Chase Kelman – November 11, 2017

Lives in Ramsey, New Jersey. Mother, Adina, Father, Adam, Sisters, Lexi, 23, Sydney, 19 and Dylan, 15 is a 7th grader Eric Smith Middle School Her interests include skiing and track and field. “I’d like to be an interior designer. I’m both excited and nervous, but I’m looking forward to celebrating with both family and friends. I am working with Southern Paws to collect items for dogs that will be adopted. I also plan to volunteer my time to help transport dogs for adoption as well as work with Southern Paws during community events.”



Warren Schindler – November 11, 2017

Lives in Suffern, New York. Mother, Jenifer, Father, Scott, Brother, Felix, 9, Sister, Hazel, 11 is an 8th grader at Suffern Middle School His interests include sports, playing football, piano, and time with family and friends. “I want to enjoy life – travel the world and be successful. I’m excited and nervous at the same time. I volunteered at medical clinics to help people get medical treatment who don’t have access to care.”



Madeline Leibman – November 18, 2017

Lives in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey. Mother, Tara, Father, Marc, Sister, Theo, 8 is a 7th grader at Woodcliff Middle School Her interests include musical theater, hip hop dance and circus arts. “I want to always be involved in theater. I’m very excited but also a little bit nervous. I’m so happy that I’m getting to share this experience with so many family members and friends. Last spring I taught a weekly art class at The Boys and Girls Club of Garfield. I had students ranging in age from 5 to 10 years old. I led them through a new project every week, and I look forward to going back soon!”

...will be called to the Torah...



Jonah Wunder – November 18, 2017

Lives in Ridgewood, New Jersey. Mother, Larisa Shlahet, Father, Rob, Brothers, Leo, 11, and Eli, 8 is an 8th grader at Benjamin Franklin Middle School His interests include rock climbing, roller coasters and swimming. "I want to travel all over the world. I'm excited to share this moment with all my friends and family. I created a blog to inform kids about political issues and to get them to contact Congress."



Natalie Morgan – November 25, 2017

Lives in Mahwah, New Jersey. Mother, Randi, Father, Curt, Brother, Zach, 24, Sister, Tori, 22 is a 7th grader at Ramapo Ridge Middle School Her interests include dance and ballet. "I want to be a dancer and an actuary. This is because I know I cannot be a dancer forever so after my dancing career, I hope to be an actuary and use my abilities in math. I am honored to be part of an occasion as remarkable as a Bat Mitzvah. It's amazing to continue a tradition that has been passed on from generation to generation and to embrace my Jewish heritage. For my community service project I'm working with an organization called Traveling Tutus. By collecting and donating dance costumes and starting a fundraiser on their site, I'm giving excitement and happiness to so many children who have a passion in dance but are not as fortunate as I am. This project is so close to my heart because I know how much joy dance brings me so I want everyone to feel that way."



Jesse Sobel – November 25, 2017

Lives in Allendale, New Jersey. Mother, Gail, Father, Rich, Brother, Dean, 19, Sister, Haley, 18 is a 7th grader at Brookside Middle School His interests include hanging out with friends, being with animals and playing video games. "I'd like to be a YouTuber and make people laugh. I'm happy to have accomplished becoming a Bar Mitzvah and to celebrate with my family and friends. I helped the Boy Scouts with projects around the community, played bingo with elderly people with dementia and helped donate to the animal shelter."



Isabella Levine – December 2, 2017

Lives in Allendale, New Jersey. Mother, Daniela, Father, Ken, Brothers, Noah, 16 and Ethan, 10 is a 7th grader at Brookside Middle School Her interests include soccer, books and music. "I want to grow up to help people through education. I am very excited to be having my Bat Mitzvah and looking forward to sharing this special day with my family and friends. For my community service I assisted senior citizens in a retirement home."



Michael Savino – December 2, 2017

Lives in Mahwah, New Jersey. Mother, Sherri, Father, Keith, Brother, Steven, 17 is an 8th grader at Ramapo Ridge Middle School His interests include baseball, Xbox, airsoft, and paintball. "I'm excited to become a Bar Mitzvah. For my community service I volunteered at Camp Acorn, a special needs camp in Allendale, New Jersey. I was a buddy for the Mahwah baseball All-Stars."



William Silver – December 16, 2017

Lives in Suffern, New York. Mother, Roni, Father, Andrew, Brother, Justin, 10, Sister, Eliana, 4 is a 7th grader at Suffern Middle School His interests include baseball, basketball, reading and spending time with family and friends. "I'd like to be a lawyer and help people with their problems. I am excited to share this special day with those dearest to me. For my community service I am walking to raise money for leukemia. This cancer is very close to my heart, because I have recently lost a loved one to leukemia."



- Alex Begleiter*
- Jacob Berwitz*
- Jillian Bruckner*
- Justin Fox*
- Benjamin Grossman*
- Morgan Koppelman*
- Isabella Levine*
- Julia Mandler*
- Benjamin Marder*
- Aiden Miller*
- Natalie Morgan*
- Sydney Selman*
- William Silver*
- Drew Weiss*

Music Committee

Hello everyone!

The Music Committee would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year! Our services were wonderful. Certainly, Cantor Perper and Rabbi Diamond inspired all of us and our choir moved us with melodies old and new. Your dedication and labor of love is very much appreciated by all of us.

I regretfully announce that our November program, a concert by the Mistral Wind Quintet, had to be cancelled. We will arrange for our congregation to enjoy their talents at a future date.

Our December program is one that we all look forward to – **Coffeehouse Cantors!** Please mark your calendars for December 2, 2017. We will have more details on the lobby announcement board, the BHSS weekly email and social media. Please invite friends and family as it will be our annual fundraiser!

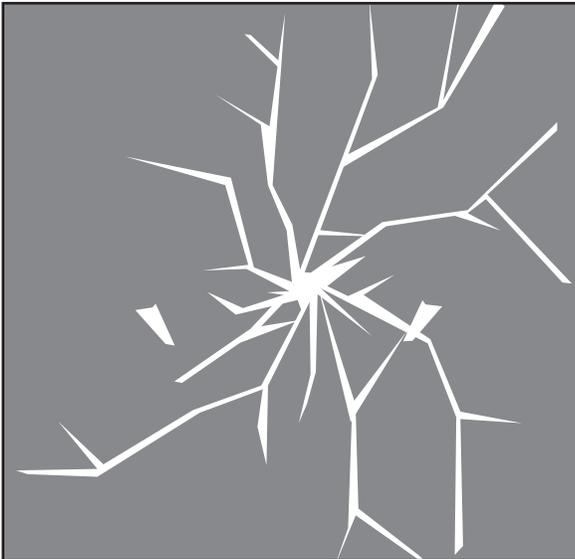
If you are interested in joining the adult choir, please contact Cantor Perper at cantorperper@earthlink.net.

Now that Hebrew School has started... for those parents who have children who like to sing, we would love to have them join the Youth Singers. The only requirement is that they must be in 3rd grade or older. Please contact Lisa Lamster, our "Choir Mom" at lisalams@optonline.net for more information.

The committee's monthly meetings take place at the synagogue every fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. We have a chair reserved just for you. If you want to know what we are about or have suggestions for what you would like to see, email me any time at niberger@aol.com and let's meet. I'd love to hear from you!

Musically yours,

Nora Berger



Kristallnacht, which literally means "the night of broken glass," occurred on the night of November 9, 1938; this date marked the beginning of the Holocaust. On Kristallnacht, Jewish homes, synagogues, and businesses were destroyed by the Nazis, and because of this violence, the streets in Germany and Nazi-occupied Europe were covered with smashed glass from all of the windows of Jewish synagogues, homes and businesses – hence the name "the night of broken glass."

Good & Welfare

from & for the congregation

Condolences

to **Jodi Denburg**, on the death of her father, Jack Levine
to **Bernie Freitag**, on the death of his father, Herbert Freitag
to **Lisa Landis**, on the death of her mother, Esther Zarco Kramer
to **Steve Littman**, on the death of his father, Ralph Littman
to **Richard Berens**, on the death of his brother, Stephen Berens

Mazal Tov

to **Gary and Renee Garbus** on the birth of their grandson, Max
to **Sanda and Alan Kessler**, on the birth of their granddaughter,
Andie Vara

Welcome New Members

Nadia & Steve Hittman, Ramsey
Carole & Paul Epstein, Mahwah
Sheila & Joshua Barbach and family, Kinnelon, NJ
Sharon & Ron Siegel and family, Montvale, NJ
Jill Blum, Mahwah
Isabel & Daniel Glim and family, Airmont, NY
Donna & Adam Kotz and family, Upper Saddle River
Rachel & Scott Kaplan and family, Suffern, NY
Marcy & Michael Luftman and family, Upper Saddle River
Eve & Adam Koppelman and family, Montvale, NJ
Cathy & Maurice Hallivis and family, Hohokus, NJ
Steve Simon, Hackensack, NJ
Kari & Seth Hurwitz and family, Upper Saddle River

Thank you!

Thanks to all who donated to the Hurricane relief funds for Texas & Florida we were able to send over \$1500.00 dollars in gift cards to Reform synagogues in need ... your support was greatly appreciated!!

R'fuah Sh'leimah
(For a Full and Speedy Recovery)

Terri Coffel
Larry Israel
Charles Romano
Beth Wiesner

To the members of BHSS

As we turn the page on the old year and welcome in 5778, I have to express my gratitude for all the support and compassion that this "House of Friends" has provided me and my family. The last seven months have really been a blur, and only now is my head beginning to clear. I would not have been able to make it through without the help of Rabbi Diamond, Cantor Perper, Educator Rebecca McVeigh, and the office staff of Iris Greenberg and Lisa Barrack. The congregation has been wonderful.

I am touched by all the donations made in Jan's memory and glad that the temple has benefitted. If there is anyone that I missed acknowledging, please forgive me.

Jan and I were proud to belong to Beth Haverim Shir Shalom, and as I start my 41st year, I look forward to being able to continue my support to keep BHSS thriving.

May we all go from strength to strength.

Jane Simon

Ritual Committee

Gratitude...

The Hebrew term for gratitude is *hakarat hatov*, which literally means “recognizing the good”. According to Rebbe Nachman of Breslov, “gratitude rejoices with her sister joy, and is always ready to light a candle and have a party. Gratitude doesn’t much like the old cronies of boredom, despair and taking life for granted.” The Talmud teaches us about Nachum Ish Gamzu, who no matter what misfortune befell him in his life, responded by saying “*Gam zu le’rovah...this too is for the good.*”

When faced with uncertainty, challenges or disappointment in our relationships, our community, our nation or the world, how can a practice of gratitude make a difference? How can we find the good in any situation with which we are faced?

What might become possible in your life if you developed the practice of each time you are faced with a challenge, instead of complaining about it, you looked at it through the lens of “*gam zu le’rovah...this too is for the good.*” What might you learn from every experience? What if you shifted from complaining about the situation to asking yourself how this current situation might help you to grow as a human being, and expand your self-awareness?

As I am writing this article, Yom Kippur has just passed, and I am in the space of reflecting on all that I am grateful for personally and as a congregant and lay leader at BHSS. For quite some time, I have been in the habit of keeping a gratitude journal. I start and end each day by writing down the blessings in my life, and what choices I can make that will make the day a great one. This practice has helped me weather the ups and downs of life more gracefully; somehow, the lows don’t seem to last as long, and I find profound joy in the simplest of moments.

Personally, I am grateful every day for my comfortable home and the view of the woods that I get to enjoy every day, for my grown children, who make me proud every day, and for the blessing of my first grandchild, who is expected to make his grand entrance in mid-December. As a congregant and a longtime member of BHSS, I am grateful for this community, for our extraordinary clergy and staff, and for the lay leaders who work tirelessly to ensure that BHSS continues to grow and thrive and provide so much for our members and our community.

With the High Holidays of 5778 just behind us, I am especially grateful for the dedication of the members of the Ritual Committee, who worked tirelessly to ensure a meaningful High Holiday season for all. From assigning honors to polishing silver, gathering Hebrew names, preparing learning sessions, coordinating *gabbais* and babysitters and ushers, these are the people who make it all happen! A heartfelt “thank you” to my co-chair, Judy Teich, and to Amy Littman, Bob Meyers, Gary Silver, Harris Reinstein, Herb Perten, Judy Teich, Lisa Lamster, Jane Simon, Jane Young, Jen Cole, Marilyn Taylor, Michelle Sherry, Nancy Levene, Sheryl Thailer, and Stacey Coyne.

Looking ahead....

Please be sure to bring a bottle of cooking oil to donate to the Center for Food Action as part of our Chanukah celebration. Join us for our community candle lighting on December 12.

The Ritual Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. We welcome new committee members at any time. If you have questions or would like information about how you can help, give us a call!

Debbie Royal

Sisterhood News

Isn't this a great time of year? We're between the High Holidays, and the holidays, and there's time to enjoy Sunday soccer, colorful leaves, fires in the fire pit, and apple cider!

What a great time we all had at our famous **Dine-A-Round!** This is one of Sisterhood's "signature" events, and we all loved gathering together for hors d'oeuvres, dividing up for delicious dining, and coming back to BHSS for delectable desserts! Thanks so much to all our hosts and hostesses, and to every one of you who came out to support the work Sisterhood does for our community.

Did you know we've made it a point to support social action at each of our events this year? Not only do we continue our efforts to staff the soup kitchen on a regular basis, but this year, we've "adopted" new community concerns, and we try to make every event count! So please watch your emails and the lobby bulletin board, not only to make sure not to miss the fun, but to help support our friends and neighbors in Bergen and Rockland Counties.

And speaking of fun, don't miss our next event: silk scarf-making, at BHSS on Sunday, November 19. If you haven't done this before, be sure to join us to learn the ancient art of classic "marbling" that will let us create soft, warm colored images, laced with exciting, never ending patterns, lines, swirls, and figured images. Learn more at createyourownsilkscarf.com; and come join us on **November 19**. It's not too early to make a treasured Chanukah gift for a friend or family member, and to have a great time with your BHSS sisters while you do!

Sisterhood is a vital, growing group that exists to support the BHSS community through service, financial contributions, and firm friendships that endure inside and outside our synagogue. We need everyone's input, from attending an event, to chairing one, and especially, for creating new ideas for our work. So if you've never been part of Sisterhood, it's high time we met you, and you meet us. Please call one of our co-presidents Leslie Sapienza or Sheryl Thailer to learn more about who we are and what we do.

From all of us at BHSS Sisterhood, best wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving, and a delightful Chanukah season. Please keep watching your emails and the weekly announcements, for news of our next great events.

See you soon!

Leslie and Sheryl

Join us for Shabbat Chanukah

*Friday, December 15
at 7:30 p.m. with choir*

*Bring Your Chanukiyah
(Chanukah menorah)
and let's celebrate the
Festival of Light*

*Then enjoy a delicious special
Oneg featuring jelly doughnuts!*

*Please be sure to bring a bottle of cooking
oil to donate to the Center for Food Action
as part of our Chanukah celebration.*



Brotherhood 2.0

Shanah Tovah! 5778 kicked off with a strong start. Brotherhood had a great first dinner with a nice turnout. We put up the sukkah and had a super Pizza in the Hut...and most of all, a really nice Shanah Tovah!

This year, Brotherhood has some really fun events and get-togethers upcoming...please keep an eye on the calendar and the weekly newsletter and Facebook for events and happenings in the 'hood.

This year, Brotherhood is led by the Legion of Past Presidents, a.k.a. the Junta. The recent past presidents had stepped up to lead our terrific group until a new president and board of directors are identified.

Brotherhood is a group who supports many of the activities in the synagogue...building the sukkah, cooking for Purim, for membership drives, for the Youth Group. Brotherhood joins with Sisterhood on many shared events. Brotherhood supports our youth with their events and initiatives. Brotherhood supports the Caring Committee by helping support our community in need. We are a group of 100 members and climbing. We are men, working together with each other to support the synagogue and the community we all love. Come out to a dinner, a breakfast, an event, or just come to a planning session and help us come up with some ideas. You'll make a new friend, catch up with an old friend, or just have a nice night out!



We look forward to continuing to serve our community. BHSS Brotherhood – Changing the world, one mitzvah at a time...

Sincerely,
Legion of Past Presidents (Ian, Erb, Allan, and Jonathan)

Upcoming Events/Dates:

November 9 – Dinner, Olé Olé restaurant, Suffern, NY
7:00 p.m.

November 19 – Brotherhood Raps, Panera Bread,
Ramsey, NY 10:00 a.m.

December 14 – Annual Brotherhood Chanukah Party,
Waterwheel Restaurant, Tallman, NY, 7:00 p.m. –
Details to follow regarding grab bag requirements

December 17 – Last Brotherhood Raps of 2017,
Panera Bread, Ramsey, NJ 10:00 a.m.

*Donate your gently used coats ~
Annual Brotherhood 2.0*

Coat Drive

*November through December
box at school entrance
on behalf of People to People*



Contributions

Rabbi's Discretionary fund

in memory of Aunt Annie Klein - *Arlene & Rich Mandel*

to the Kraft family, in honor of Gus' Bar Mitzvah
- *Rita & Martin Fox*

with thanks and appreciation, in memory of Newt
- *Sandy Parks*

to you and all of BHSS, with thanks and appreciation for all
the caring and kindness shown to us!
- *the Schwartz/Ellman family*

with thanks and appreciation - *the Grossman family*

with thanks and appreciation, in honor of Tai's Bat Mitzvah
- *the Weiss family*

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

with thanks for your help! - *the Orlick family*

with thanks and appreciation, in memory of Newt
- *Sandy Parks*

with thanks and appreciation, in honor of Tai's Bat Mitzvah
- *the Weiss family*

Educator's Discretionary Fund

to Ros Jacobs, in memory of your husband Charles
- *Irma & Joel Becker*

with thanks and appreciation, in honor of Tai's Bat Mitzvah
- *the Weiss family*

Life Fund

to Alan and Sanda Kessler, in honor of your granddaughter,
Andie Vara - *Alison & Norman Axelrod*

in memory of Harris' parents, Leah and Eugene Reinstein
and Susan's parents and brother, Estelle Jack Weinberg and
Howard Weinberg - *Susan & Harris Reinstein*

in memory of Bertha Weisser and Irv Goodman
- *Carole Goodman*

in memory of Richard Silverman - *Judy & Jon Neumann*

in memory of Nancy Pivar - *David Schwartz*

in memory of Francis Schulman - *Lisa & Jack Schulman*

to Sandy Parks, with deepest sympathy, in memory of Newt
- *Judy & Joel Dorfman*
- *the Kamar family*

in memory of Stanley Checkla - *the Checkla family*

to Stacey Coyne, in her honor, with thanks for her help!
- *the Checkla family*

in memory of Betty Sankel - *Sheryl & Joel Ives*

Ramapo Bergen Animal Refuge

Donated by their families in honor of the following simchas

Bar Mitzvah of Zack Barkan
Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Sheppard
Bat Mitzvah of Alexandra Dain

Center for Food Action

Donated by their families in honor of the following simchas

B'not Mitzvah of Arden & Olivia Flynn
Bar Mitzvah of Gus Kraft
Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Schulman

Jewish Family Services of Rockland

Donated by their families in honor of the following simchas

B'not Mitzvah of Arden & Olivia Flynn
Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Schulman

SUSTAINING MEMBERS 2017

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE FAMILIES WHO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT BETH HAVERIM SHIR SHALOM BY PARTICIPATING IN ONE OF THE BELOW LEVELS OF SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP:

B'RACHA IS A BLESSING SIMCHA IS A JOY TZEDEK MEANS RIGHTEOUSNESS

B'RACHA

Sydelle & David Aarons
Sarah & David Adelson
Elyse Victor Berman & Joe Berman
Allison & Josh Berwitz
Shelley & Gary Bettman
Stacy & Michael Davis
Alexia & Elliot Feldman
Marci & Harvey Weinberg
Sheryl & Joel Ives
Meryl & Len Kaplan
Candy & Mike Kassover
Mona & Jeff Lefkowitz
Claire & Paul Lipson
Robby & Eddie Saiff
Leslie Sapienza
Barbara Lacher & Anton Vlahovic
Gail & Ranan Wichler
Beverly & Harlan York

SIMCHA

Laurie & Marc Daniel
Sue- Ellen Johnson
Deborah & Jeffrey Klein
Anonymous
Anonymous
Fran & Jeff Rowbottom
Ruth & Stuart Turner

TZEDEK

Sandy & Bill Arlington
Alison & Norman Axelrod
Sheila & Larry Groskin
Arlene & Rich Mandel
Phil Moss
Sheri Slavin & Andrew Schechter
Marilyn Israel

Celebrate Our Community With Eternal Lights

*Please join us for an evening of
Laughter, Friendship & Kindness*

Thursday, November 16, 2017

7:00 pm Cocktails

8:00 pm Dinner

The River Palm Terrace

Mahwah, NJ

*Through your generosity Eternal Lights continues to
ensure the growth of our synagogue, benefiting all
congregants as well as enables our families to be a
part of our Jewish community*

*Event Chairpersons
Deborah & Jeffrey Klein*

*Thank you for your generous donation
which goes directly to the vital services
necessary for building a strong Jewish community*

*M. _____ Will gladly attend
donation enclosed of \$500.00
per person \$1000.00 per couple*

*M. _____ Will not attend
but would like to support Eternal Lights
with a donation which benefits all our families*

*Please reply by November 1, 2017
Thank you for being a friend of Eternal Lights*

Youth Programming

Menschmakers (grades 3 - 5)

As you read this, the Menschmakers should have had their first event of the year at Secor Farms for pumpkin picking, hay rides, cider, and doughnuts!

Upcoming events include:

- November 5 - Mitzvah Day - -- bring your gently used and new baby (through 4T) clothing!
- November 19 - No Cook Cooking
- December 17 - Chanukah at the Promenade



Brittany Silverman,
Director of Informal
Youth Programming

Junior Youth Group (grades 6 - 8)

It has been a wonderful start of the year and the Junior Youth Group had great weather for their first event.

In keeping with the theme for the Jewish New Year, we went apple picking at Maskers and baked pies. The Junior Youth Group girls that attended have become lattice experts and the designs they made on their pies were extremely decorative. Of course the highlight of the event was having everyone make their own miniature pie to share with their family. I hope to see you at our next events we have scheduled and I am looking forward to a great year!

- November 5- Mitzvah Day - bring your gently used and new baby (through 4T) clothing!
- November 19- No Cook Cooking
- December 1- Taste of NFTY

Senior Youth Group (grades 9 - 12)

The Board was very busy during the month of August, planning events for the Senior Youth Group. The Board Retreat, which was hosted at the Punim's, included swimming, a barbeque, a special celebration for Robin Falkow and Jason Ritchin's birthdays, and of course, planning for the year. The Board also went to The Castle to continue to build relationships with one another.

Senior Youth Group, our first event was the Spaghetti Dinner, and I thank everyone who supported us. All proceeds will go to Oasis: A Haven for Women and Children.

Our upcoming events include:

- November 5- Mitzvah Day - bring your gently used and new baby (through 4T) clothing!
- December 9- Midnight Run

It's never too late to join in – check the BHSS website for a Youth Group registration form or pick one up in the school lobby by the Youth Group bulletin board!



From the Sifriyah

We are busy in the library, planning two major events which we feel will be educational, interesting, and highly informative. The first is the return of our popular Book and A Bagel. We have selected the novel *Henna House* by Nomi Eve.

This vivid saga begins in Yemen in 1920. The parents of Adela Damari are in failing health. This prompts the parents to desperately seek a future husband for their young daughter, who is in danger of becoming adopted by the local Muslim community if she is orphaned. With no likely prospects, Adela's situation looks dire - until she meets two cousins from faraway cities: a boy with whom she shares her most treasured secret, and a girl who introduces her to the powerful rituals of henna. Ultimately, Adela's life journey brings her old and new loves, her true calling, and a new life as she is transported to Israel as part of Operation On Wings of Eagles.

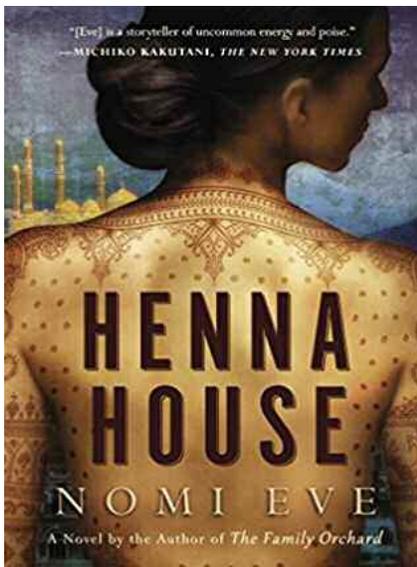
Mark your calendars:

**Enjoy a delicious light lunch and a lively discussion -
Sunday, November 5 ~ 1 p.m. at BHSS
Contact Barbara at bgnimerofsky@optonline.net**

You are surely aware that much of our news today centers around the issue of immigration. But are you aware that once there were 1,000,000 Jews thriving in the Middle East and North Africa in countries such as Lebanon, Iran, Yemen, Egypt and Tunisia? Today, there may be only a few thousand who remain. Most of these Jews were forced to leave and went mostly to Israel and some to the United States. Of this number there are perhaps hundreds of Jews from Yemen who now call the United States home.

Their journeys as immigrants then and settlers now prompted us to invite a group of Yemenite Jews to share their journeys and life experiences. We were also inspired to present their stories after reading the novel *Henna House* which will be a perfect introduction to our new program.

Please join us on Sunday, December 10 at 1 p.m. as we inaugurate an interesting and educational program on Jewish Yemenite immigrants. Of course, refreshments will be served. Please contact Barbara to RSVP or with questions at bgnimerofsky@optonline.net.



Book and a Bagel

Read the novel "Henna House", by Nomi Eve and join the women of the BHSS Library for lunch and a lively discussion of this wonderful book.

Sunday November 5 at 1 pm
Bagels and salads will be served
RSVP: bgnimerofsky@optonline.net



Jews From Far Away Places

Jewish Yemenite immigrants will be coming to BHSS and share stories about their life in Yemen and their life now in our local area.

Sunday December 10 at 1 pm
Refreshments will be served
RSVP: bgnimerofsky@optonline.net

November Yahrzeits

SAMUEL AARONS	ALLAN HEFFLER	ALEJANDRO LLIBRE	MORITZ SCHOTT
DOROTHY ADLMAN	MAE HEILBRAUN	DINA LOZINSKY	MARILYN SCHWARTZ
MANUEL ANSIN	HERMAN HERSHMAN	RENA LULOV	RABBI SHAI SHACKNAI
CORINNE BAUM	BESSIE HIEGER	JODI LYONS	PAUL SHERMAN
SAMUEL BERGER	NORMA JAFFE	VIGA MANZON	HARVEY SHILL
MATTIE BIALER	NORMAN KAPLAN	MURRAY MARKS	HOWARD SHMARUK
DONNA BLUMENTHAL	RACHEL KAPLAN	SALE MEEROVICI	NORMAN SILVER
YURY BORODA	ANNA KASPER	NORMAN NOVAK	NATHAN SINGER
JENNIE COHEN	ANNA KASPER	SADIE NOVOK	LON STEINMAN
MARVIN COMISKY	CAROLEE KIRSHMAN	ESTHER OPPENHEIM	ERNA TUTEUR
DONALD FIELDS	ELSIE KLEIN	JOHN PARKS	MAX VOGEL
HARRY FORIN	SALLY KOBRIN	VI PEARLMAN	HOWARD WEINBERG
BURTON FREEMAN	HENRY KOLB	SALLY RABINOVICH	ELEANOR WEINER
ALBERTA GREENBERG	BETTY KURSMAN	WILLIAM RESNIK	SYBIL WOLFE
EUGENE GREENBLATT	IRVING KURSMAN	SEYMOUR SAIFF	SARAH YERUSHALMI
SYLVIA GREENE	JEROME KURSMAN	SAMUEL SCHECHTER	SARAH ZALL
BERNICE SHIRLEY GRUBER	ROSE LEFKOWITZ	MARTHA SCHEININ	MOLLIE ZUKOF
SYLVIA HABERMAN	ISIDORE LEVINE	NORMAN SCHLISSEL	

Tot Shabbat

Join Cantor Perper (November,) Rabbi Diamond (December)
and Educator Rebecca McVeigh
for a song and a story and a taste of Shabbat with your little ones!

Who: Parents, Grandparents with children ages birth to 5.
When: Friday, November 17 and December 15 from 5:15 to 6 p.m.

Open to members and non-members alike – bring your friends.
We'll share a little challah and grape juice before we go,
wishing each other a sweet Shabbat of rest and peace.
RSVP to the office 201-512-1983

October Yahrzeits

LEAH ADLMAN	ABRAHAM FINKELSTEIN	HOWARD LEVITT	SOLOMON ROYAL
NORMAN ARKAWY	ALAN FLON	ALICE LEVY	MARY RUDNICK
NETTIE ARSHANSKY	MILTON FLON	HERBERT LEVY	EILEEN SCHACHTER
HOWARD BALLEEN	WALTER FONDILLER	HARRY LITMAN	DONALD SCHWARTZ
DONNA BARRACK	MARILYN FRIEDMAN	RICHARD LULOV	JUDITH SHACKNAI
ALFRED BAUM	EMANUEL GARBUS	SHELDON LULOV	RALPH SHEPPARD
MARVIN BENDALIN	MIRIAM GEBROWITZ	DODY MAGAZINER	STUART SIMON
LILLIAN BERMAN	STEPHEN GERSHENGORN	OSCAR MAIER	BENARD SMOLINSKY
ELAINE CRAMER	SCOTT GOLDBERG	NATHAN MAYERS	ARIEL SORIANO
BERNSTEIN	SHELDON GOLDSTEIN	NATHAN MELLIN	SAUL STEDMAN
HOWARD BETTMAN	ESTHER GOODMAN-	ARTHUR MINTZ	ALLEN STEIN
ERNEST BOLSON	ZASLOW	PAUL MOHNBLATT	FLORENCE TURNER
KHANA BORODA	FLORENCE GORDON	MARK MOSKOWITZ	ANNETTE GORDON
ROSE BRANDENSTEIN	HARRY GORDON	CLAIRE NOVAK	WALDBAUM
JULIUS BRESSLER	FRED GROSSMAN	HILDA OPELL	REBA WEBER
BELLA COHEN	AARON HALL	SANFORD PARKS	SOL WEBER
ED COHN	ELAINE HALL	AMALIA PAVLOVEC	JEROME WEINBERG
JOE COYNE	SHIRLEY JACOBS	AARON PREMSELAAR	MILTON WEINER
GERALD DEFOREST	LOTHAR KAHN	CARL RICHARDSON	ROSE WEINSTEIN
CROUCH	CLIFFORD KELMAN	FAYE RICHARDSON	STANLEY WEINSTEIN
KURT DANIEL	PAUL KIRSHMAN	LEAH ROCKER	JEFFREY WEISENFELD
SONIA DEMSKY	ANN KIRSHNER	PAUL ROIZEN	ROBERT WEISS
SOPHIE EISENSTEIN	MILTON KLEIN	SAMUEL ROSENZWEIG	SONDRA WELLS
JULIA FIHRER	DAVID LEVINSON	ROSE ROYAL	MARK ZAVIST

Lifelong Learning Committee

Jewish Basics:

Everything you forgot or never learned.

This year the Lifelong Learning Committee is going back to basics. Music, God, holidays, rituals and of course food! We are working on programming that would touch everyone in the congregation; alternating day and evening programs to accommodate busy schedules. So please if there is anything that fits into our theme that you feel would be fun let us know, and we will try to make it happen!

Jewish Music - Taught by Cantor Perper and Cantor Steinsynder on Sunday, November 19, and is for both adults and children; together and apart.

The Great Latke Cookoff is back! On Friday evening, December 1, you will have the opportunity to compete for bragging rights in the latke cookoff. Event will feature a panel of not-quite celebrity judges.

Scholar in Residence - February 9-11 will be a joint program with the Music Committee featuring Ramapo College professor Gilad Cohen.

Please watch the weekly emails for timing and program updates. We look forward to learning together this year!

Lori Yanowitz and Nancy Levene, LLL Co-Chairs

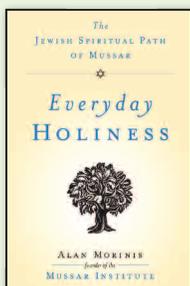
The World of Mussar is open before you, and you are invited to enter.

SEEKING
EVERYDAY
HOLINESS

A
COMMUNITY
MUSSAR
PROGRAM

The Union for Reform Judaism and The Mussar Institute are offering *Seeking Everyday Holiness*, a course of transformative teachings based on the book *Everyday Holiness* by Alan Morinis. Mussar practice provides an authentic Jewish pathway to connect with the light of holiness that lives within the soul.

Mussar is open to everyone, regardless of Jewish knowledge with no Hebrew required. You will receive a copy of the book, and participate in a discussion group where you can experience the practices and teachings of Mussar. Some of the traits to be explored are humility, patience, and gratitude. Discover how the wisdom of Mussar can bring more balance and wholeness into your life.



“The study and practice of Mussar is for me an integral part of my understanding of Jewish leadership. I am anchored in my day through this practice: it is a Jewish framework for reflection and personal growth. To take advantage of this kind of practice, to embody it so that it becomes ours to live and to teach, is of inestimable value to share and develop the spiritual growth possible within a congregation.”

— Susan Carr, past president of the American Conference of Cantors

Taste of Seeking Everyday Holiness class
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Class Dates - Approximately bi-weekly
7:30 p.m. Wednesdays
November 15, 2017 - March 28, 2018

For more information please contact:
Lisa Barrack - 201-512-1983
BethHaverim@optonline.net

HELP OUR YOUTH GROUPS
SUPPORT MITZVAH DAY!



We're collecting gently used baby and children's clothing through size 4T

Drop off donations from September 17 through 1 p.m. on Mitzvah Day, November 5

On Mitzvah Day, the youth groups will be sorting the collection to be donated to Oasis: A Haven for Women and Children



COMMUNITY MENORAH LIGHTING!

Tuesday,
December 12,
6 pm



Join your congregational family as we officially light the beautiful chanukiyah (Chanukah menorah) that graces our front circle.

We will gather with Rabbi Diamond, Cantor Perper, our choir, and our fourth and fifth grade students to celebrate with song and some hot cocoa and jelly donuts.

Michelle Mitzvah Group

Shalom. I am writing this about 24 hours after the last sound of the Shofar, concluding a meaningful fast. Shortly afterwards, like most of you, I grabbed a bagel with cream cheese to get a little nosh and then headed with family to break-fast. Fasting for Yom Kippur lasts for a day, and then we return to nourishing our bodies. Today, I went grocery shopping at ShopRite and so now my refrigerator is full of food. Sadly, our neighbors may not be so fortunate. Their refrigerators are not full of food and their fast may be much longer than a day.

That is where you and the Michelle Mitzvah Group can help. During the High Holidays, you contributed to the Center for Food Action food drive, as the CFA van was parked outside the synagogue. Thank you to all who donated and continue to donate. As you read this, the weather is getting colder and the winter months are coming - and the need continues. I ask you to please fill the collection baskets as you enter our building with the following:

- peanut butter & jelly - macaroni & cheese
- canned meat, tuna, & beans - white & brown rice
- pasta & spaghetti sauce - hearty soups, low sodium soups,
 - canned fruit & vegetables - low sugar cereal
 - juice (100% juices) - diapers (sizes 2, 3, & 4)
- instant formula & baby food - dental hygiene products
 - Ensure (& similar nutritional drink)

Of course, there are other ways to help our community at large through the Michelle Mitzvah Group. Sunday, November 5, is Mitzvah Day in partnership with Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey and you can't have Mitzvah Day without the Michelle Mitzvah Group. *

This year, the Michelle Mitzvah Group will be collecting professional clothing and accessories to be donated to the Bergen Community College "Move for Success" Program. The program provides students access to professional clothing so they may "walk into an interview not only prepared, but looking like they are successful and want to be successful."

Bring your clothing & accessories to the synagogue on Sunday, November 5, after religious school. We ask all clothes be on hangers and dry cleaned (requested by BCC). Monetary donations will be accepted to help offset dry cleaning costs.

We meet the second Tuesday of every month, 7:30 pm at BHSS and we are always looking for new volunteers and ideas.

For any questions, please contact Michelle Mitzvah Chair, Steven Simon at 201 788-6755.

* Our youth groups are coordinating with us by collecting gently used baby clothing (up to 4T) for Oasis: A Haven for Women and Children. Look for their collection box in the school entryway.

Join the
Michelle Mitzvah Group,
Cantor Perper,
choir members
to brighten the day for the

Wanaque Children's
Hospital Center
Monday,
December 25

meet in the BHSS parking lot
at 9 am



Our beautiful new space, The *Ulam*, is available for your next event!!

Are you having a meeting? A small intimate gathering? Birthday, Anniversary, Graduation or Extended Kiddush?
Please call the office for more information on renting out this space.



Rabbi Search Committee

It is an exciting time for the BHSS Rabbinic Search committee, as we have received resumes from an impressive group of candidates. We are currently interviewing, through SKYPE and in-person, those of interest, and continuing the process with those we feel could be our next settled rabbi. As the search

begins to narrow down, there will be opportunities to meet the candidates, and we will continue to provide updates through the website's Rabbinic Search link.

Jen & Michelle

GIFT CARDS

Meeting friends at Panera? Sipping Starbucks? Do you shop at ShopRite, Stop&Shop, Acme or Fairway? Support BHSS with this easy, ongoing fundraiser by buying gift cards to use at these and dozens of other stores and restaurants!

They also make wonderful gifts for teachers, coaches, birthdays, anniversaries and the holidays!

Please contact Lisa Lamster at (lisalams@optonline.net) or 201-760-1935 with any questions or to order your cards today!



Caring Committee

The Caring Committee has been quite busy making phone calls and visiting synagogue members who are ill and are in hospitals or rehabilitation centers. We have several volunteers who prepare meals that are delivered as needed, and this committee thanks each contributor for his/her kindness and generosity.

Along with our Brotherhood volunteers, we have been providing rides to doctors and Friday night services to members who are not able to drive. We are, however, in need of more driving volunteers so we don't have to turn anyone down when a request is made. If the Caring Committee has helped you in the past, and you are able, please try to "pay it forward" to provide help to fellow members.

Caring Committee members also attend shiva services. It is very rewarding to see the comfort on the face of the mourner when a temple member walks in the door to support the family at their difficult time. We encourage all to participate in this mitzvah.

If you have any availability and are willing to provide a service, please contact:

Candy Kassover at candy1951@optonline.net or Laura Miller at mlctsmiller@verizon.net.

The Great Latke Cookoff

What will you be serving your family for Chanukah this year? Do you have your Zadies' recipe or Aunt Bessie's or did you consult Alexa for a modern take on the classic? Join us on Friday night December 1 and show us who's the best latke maven in the land!!! Whatever recipe you plan to serve to your family, we want to try it too.

Back by popular demand (ok, maybe just we decided) the sometimes, annual BHSS Great Latke Cookoff will take place on Friday, December 1 following Erev Shabbat services. Services are at 6:00 so we will all be ready for latkes at 7:00.

What you need to do.....

1. Sign up for the contest at the BHSS office by Friday, November 24.
2. On Friday, December 1, bring 50 (tasting-size) latkes on disposable aluminum pans to the kitchen by 5:45 p.m.
3. Latkes will be served at the Oneg.

A panel of not-quite celebrity judges will select the winners and the congregation will select a people's choice winner!

Categories (and yes there will be prizes!)

Classic- would be easily recognized by anyone's Grandmother

Creative- unique ingredients, updated spin on a classic

Contemporary- choose a recipe that even a Millennial would love (do I hear chai or kale?)

Multiple entries are allowed.... Get the whole family involved.

The traditional accompaniments of applesauce and sour cream will be served.

Great Latke Cook-off Entry Form

Name _____

Email address _____

Category _____

Chanukah 2017 begins at sunset on Tuesday, December 12, and ends at sundown on Wednesday, December 20.

Chanukah is an eight-day festival commemorating the Maccabees' victory over the Greeks and subsequent rededication of the Temple. It falls in the Hebrew month of *Kislev*, which usually corresponds with December. It is customary to eat foods that are either fried in oil or made with cheese. The fried foods custom recalls the miracle of Chanukah, which centered around oil (one cruse lasting for eight days.) *Latkes* (fried potato pancakes) are traditional, topped with applesauce or sour cream, but there are many creative variations to the pancakes and the toppings. Other fried foods for Chanukah include *sufganiyot* (jelly doughnuts) and other kinds of fritters.

Lori Yanowitz and Nancy Levene, Lifelong Learning Chairs



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Retreat Shabbat services count towards Bar/Bat Mitzvah attendance requirements.

Come for the weekend or Saturday only!

Many thanks to the BHSS Endowment for significantly underwriting the cost of the retreat!
Spaces are limited, so sign up soon! Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.
Need-based, confidential assistance with retreat fees is available - contact Rebecca McVeigh privately (schoolatbethhav@optonline.net.)

\$80.00 for ages 17 and up | \$65.00 for ages 7-16 | \$50.00 for ages 3-6
Children under 3 are free! | \$40 for Saturday only (no overnight)

For more information, contact Lauren Theodore at laurenstheodore@gmail.com

Are you an expert in something interesting or fun?
Share your talents and enhance the retreat for everyone!

.....
Name(s) _____
No. of Adults _____ No. of Youth (ages 7 - 16) _____ No. of Children (ages 3 - 6) _____
Ages of Youth / Children _____
Email address _____ Cell# _____
Dietary Restrictions (Food is kosher style) _____
Credit Card Type _____ Name on Card _____
Credit Card Number _____ Exp. _____

Please tear off and give to Iris in the BHSS office by 11/14/17.

BHSS Chanukah D.A.R.E. Toy Drive

The Michelle Mitzvah Group programs allow BHSS members to give back to the community and one such way is providing help to the Suffern Police Department's D.A.R.E. Program with its annual toy drive. BHSS' participation over the years has allowed Suffern D.A.R.E to offer aid to families in Orange County, NY, Newark, NJ and New York City in addition to its primary mission of helping local families in Rockland County, NY and Bergen County, NJ. Suffern D.A.R.E, along with local social workers, municipalities and organizations identify local families in need or who are dealing with a tragic event. Suffern D.A.R.E provides these families with the ability to have gifts for their children during these difficult times in their lives. Yes, these families are our neighbors and we, as a community, are obligated to help them. With the High Holidays fresh in our minds, please use this worthy cause to help people in need and teach our children the meaning of tzedakah.

The BHSS Chanukah D.A.R.E. Toy Drive has been very successful over the years with our congregation donating over 400 gifts for families in need each year. However, as successful as we are, we still don't have 100% participation from our temple families. Let's change that this year. We request that every family pledge to participate in the BHSS Chanukah D.A.R.E. Toy Drive this year. All a family needs to do is donate one **unwrapped** new gift for a child in need. We have almost 400 member families and if each family donates we will easily reach our annual number of 400 gifts and most likely exceed it. If every family donates, we can help over 100 families in our neighborhoods and continue to provide Suffern D.A.R.E. with the ability to expand its reach to our surrounding communities and help heal the world. We are requesting that you and your family embrace the obligation to provide at least one unwrapped new gift and in doing so, each of us will continue to teach the meaning of tzedakah to the next generation.

Please stop by the temple's bulletin board by the entrance to the religious school. You will find information identifying a child of a family in need of help. Please understand and

respect that the identity of the needy family is very confidential and can not be provided to you. The child will be labeled by family number, gender and age. Please take a label and attach it to an unwrapped new gift and drop it off at the temple during November and December. There will be bins to put the gifts in by religious school entrance. We want to help you repair the world. If you don't want to pick a child but would like to donate, please do so and just drop off an unwrapped new gift. If you can't get the gift to the Temple, no problem, email us and we will be glad to pick it up from you. Please note that the last drop-off date at the temple will be Monday, December 18, 2017 at 5 p.m.

Finally, the Michelle Mitzvah Group, as well as Suffern D.A.R.E, can also use help. If you wish to provide assistance or have any questions, please feel free to email Barry Romoff at bromoff@gmail.com. Thank you.



What would Mitzvah Day be without Michelle Mitzvah?

Help the Michelle Mitzvah Group collect professional clothing to benefit the

Bergen Community College **Move for Success** Program

The program provides students access to professional clothing so they may "walk into an interview not only prepared, but looking like they are successful and want to be successful."

Drop off clothing and accessories (ties, shoes, scarves, portfolios, messenger bags, etc.)
at the temple in the portable wardrobes.

Make your donations during your next visit to the temple or after religious school on:

Mitzvah Day, Sunday, November 5

- * Clothes need to be dry cleaned & on hangers!!!
- * Monetary donations will be accepted to help offset dry cleaning costs.

Questions, please contact Michelle Mitzvah Group Chair, Steven Simon 201 788-6755



The "career closet" for students at Bergen Community College in Paramus.
(Photo: Mitsu Yasukawa/NorthJersey.com)

Social Action Committee

Happily there is much to say about Social Action here at BHSS.

- TikkunCon's **Poverty** Offshoot is making huge progress in the area of Immigration. Their first endeavor is participating in the Syrian Supper Club (or the group's new name, United Tastes of America). Dinners in conjunction with this organization will be upcoming here at BHSS or in the area. Watch for announcements. There are ongoing meetings at BHSS to strategize this effort; everyone is welcome. Contact: sgroskin@optonline.net

- TikkunCon's **Environment** Offshoot is exploring how it can "green" BHSS, lowering the carbon footprint and lowering operating expenses. Meetings are held regularly to learn how and what can be done within BHSS with the hope of spreading this to the community at large. Contact: marlasm6@optonline.net

- Mitzvah Day**, November 5, is a new adventure for BHSS. Michelle Mitzvah Group is participating with JFNNJ, but starting a new initiative. We will be collecting freshly dry cleaned business attire to donate to Bergen Community College's lending program for students needing appropriate attire for job interviews. Please look for flyers and information to donate and then join us on November 5 to sort the donations. Contact: steveoum@verizon.net

Our Youth Groups are also participating in Mitzvah Day by collecting baby clothing to be donated to Oasis: A Haven for Women and Children. Sorting will be on November 5. Their collection box is in the school lobby. Contact: bsilvermanbhss@gmail.com

- The BHSS **Community Garden** continues to produce organic produce that is donated to soup kitchens and food banks in our area. Inexperienced, passionate volunteers are always welcome. Contact: whitneyspeer@msn.com

Social Action is an amazing asset of BHSS, please take advantage of the opportunities!

ISRAEL FILM FESTIVAL

November 2 - 19, 2017

Israel Film Festival Committee

Suzette Diamond, Chair

Lauri Bader
Nancy Eichenbaum
Susan Erdman
Joelle Halperin
Etti Inbal
Donna Kessler
Joan Krieger
Lynn Karpo-Lantz
Sue Ann Levin
Gali Loewenstein
Jo Resnick Rosen
Ava Silverstein
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tickets and info
jfnnj.org/filmfestival

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 <p>MY HERO BROTHER 78 minutes Hebrew with Subtitles Thursday, November 2 7:30 pm Special Guest - Yonatan Nir, Director Warner Theater 190 East Ridgewood Avenue, Ridgewood Tuesday, November 14 7:30 pm United Synagogue of Hoboken 115 Park Avenue, Hoboken</p>	 <p>THE WEDDING PLAN 110 minutes Hebrew with Subtitles Monday, November 13 7:30 pm Teaneck Cinemas 503 Cedar Lane, Teaneck</p>	 <p>MR. PREDICTABLE 103 minutes Hebrew with Subtitles Wednesday, November 15 7:30 pm Warner Theater 190 East Ridgewood Avenue, Ridgewood</p>
 <p>AN ISRAELI LOVE STORY 93 minutes Hebrew with Subtitles PLUS THE LITTLE DICTATOR 28 minutes Hebrew with Subtitles Tuesday, November 7 7:30 pm Teaneck Cinemas 503 Cedar Lane, Teaneck</p>	 <p>OUR FATHER 105 minutes Hebrew with Subtitles Thursday, November 16 7:30 pm Edgewater Multiplex Cinemas 1339 River Road, Edgewater</p>	 <p>PAST LIFE 102 minutes Hebrew, German, Polish with Subtitles Sunday, November 19 7:30 pm Special Guest - David Milch, Producer Kaplan JCC on the Palisades 411 East Clinton Avenue, Tenafly</p>
 <p>THE WOMEN'S BALCONY 96 minutes Hebrew with Subtitles Wednesday, November 8 7:30 pm Wayne YMCA 11 Pike Drive, Wayne</p>		

This program has been made possible in part by a grant administered by the Bergen County Division of Historic and Cultural Affairs from funds granted by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

Buy your tickets today! jfnnj.org/filmfestival

CHANUKAH MENORAH LIGHTING HINTS:

The first night of Chanukah is on December 12. Candles are placed in the *chanukiah* (Chanukah menorah) from right to left. (The first night, place one candle all the way to the right, then add from there each succeeding night.) Light candles from left to right (light the newest candle first after you have lit the *shamash*, or service candle.)

First Blessing:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, asher kidshanu bimitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who has sanctified us with commandments and commanded us to kindle the lights of Chanukah.

Second Blessing:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזְמַן הַזֶּה.

Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, she'asa nissim la'avoteinu bayamim haheim ba-z'man hazeh.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors, in those days at this time of year.

Third Blessing (recited first night only)

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזְמַן הַזֶּה.

Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, shehecheyanu v'kiyemanu v'higiyanu la-z'man hazeh.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season of joy.



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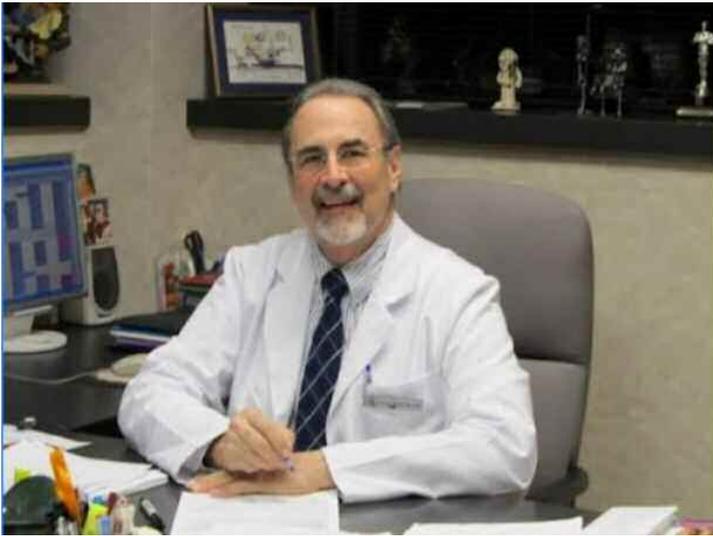


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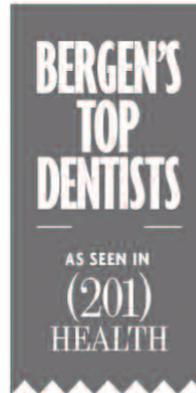
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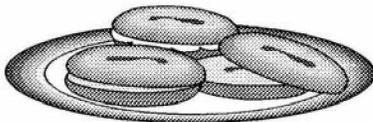
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Friday, Nov 3	6:00 pm	Shabbat Evening Family service <i>Birthdays in November will be celebrated</i> Oneg Shabbat Hosts: the Grobman family
Saturday, Nov 4	10:00 am	B'nei Mitzvah of Ally & Tyler Grobman
Friday, Nov 10	7:30 pm	Shabbat Evening service Oneg Shabbat Hosts: the Kelman and Schindler families
Saturday, Nov 11		10:00 am B'nei Mitzvah of Chase Kelman and Warren Schindler
Friday, Nov 17	5:15 pm	Tot Shabbat
	7:30 pm	Shabbat Evening service Oneg Shabbat Hosts: the Leibman and Shlahet/Wunder families
Saturday, Nov 18	10:00 am	B'nei Mitzvah of Madeline Leibman and Jonah Wunder
Friday, Nov 24	7:30 pm	Shabbat Evening service Oneg Shabbat Hosts: the Morgan and Sobel families
Saturday, Nov 25	10:00 am	B'nei Mitzvah of Natalie Morgan and Jesse Sobel
Friday, Dec 1	6:00 pm	Shabbat Evening Family service <i>Birthdays in December will be celebrated</i> Oneg Shabbat Hosts: the Levine and Savino families
Saturday, Dec 2		10:00 am B'nei Mitzvah of Isabella Levine and Michael Savino
Friday, Dec 8	7:30 pm	Shabbat Evening service
Saturday, Dec 9		NO Shabbat Morning service
Friday, Dec 15	5:15 pm	Tot Shabbat
	7:30 pm	Shabbat Chanukah service Oneg Shabbat Host: the Silver family
Saturday, Dec 16	10:00 am	Bar Mitzvah of William Silver
Friday, Dec 22	7:30 pm	Shabbat Evening service
Saturday, Dec 23	10:00 am	Shabbat Morning service
Friday, Dec 29	7:30 pm	Shabbat Evening service
Saturday, Dec 30		NO Shabbat Morning service

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Tuesdays: Nov 14, 21, 28 & Dec 5, 12, 19

Office Closed:

Thursday, Nov 23
Friday, Nov 24
Monday, Dec 25

To do in November and December:



- *Torah Study Shabbat mornings, 8:15 am*
- *Family Shabbat Services Friday, November 3 & December 1, 6:00 pm*
- *Participate in Mitzvah Day Sunday, November 5*
- *Book and a Bagel, Henna House, Sunday, November 5, 1:00 pm*
- *Intro to Judaism class begin on November 14, at BHSS*
- *Seeking Everyday Holiness: A Community Mussar Program*
- *Enjoy LLL program Jewish Basics, November 19*
- *Tot Shabbat Friday, November 17 and December 15, 5:15 pm*
- *Enter into and enjoy the "Best Chanukah Latke" contest on Friday, December 1*
- *Coffee House Cantors Saturday, December 2, 7:30 pm*
- *Community Menorah Lighting Tuesday, December 12, 6:00 pm*
- *Shabbat Chanukah Service Friday, December 15, 7:30 pm*
- *Library Committee Program, Jews from Far Away Places, Sunday December 10, 1:00 pm*
- *Adopt a child (or family!) DARE Toy Drive, drop off at BHSS thru December 18*
- *Wanaque Children's Hospital Visit, Monday, December 25, 9:00 am*

Please be sure to bring a bottle of cooking oil to donate to the Center for Food Action as part of our Chanukah celebration. Join us for our community candle lighting on December 12. Then bring your Chanukah menorah for our Shabbat Chanukah on December 15 at 7:30 p.m.