



Congregation Beth Israel
חבורת בית ישראל

CBI NEWSletter

Nov/Dec 2014 - Cheshvan / Kislev 5775

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From the Rabbi

Holy friends,

As I write these words, we're just entering into the one month of the Jewish year which features no holidays or special mitzvot: the month of Cheshvan.

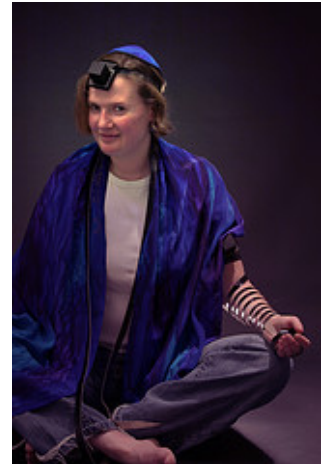
Some people have the custom of calling this month *Mar-Cheshvan*,

"Bitter Cheshvan," because after so many weeks of feeling ourselves to be in God's presence, we enter into a whole month with no festival opportunities to feel that closeness.

But I experience Cheshvan as a welcome respite, a necessary quiet time during which we can integrate the experiences of the High Holiday season. After the hard work and the emotional-spiritual rollercoaster of the Days of Awe and Sukkot, a month containing nothing but weekdays and Shabbat feels like a gift. A time to embrace emptiness and quiet.

After Cheshvan comes Kislev. You've probably heard the joke: one person asks, "When is Chanukah this year?" and the other responds, "The same time as always: the 25th of Kislev!" This year, the 25th of Kislev begins at sundown on December 16th. Our congregational Chanukah party, featuring latkes and songs

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and togetherness and this year a special visit from the Wholesale Klezmer Band, will be at 5:30pm on Friday evening, December 19th.

Now that our fall holidays are over, we move into a quiet time, a fallow time. Here in our hemisphere the days are getting shorter, the harvest is long since brought in, and we're settling in for the relative quiet of a (probably) snow-covered winter. Jewishly, too, we're settling in to a fallow period: a time to let our hearts and souls rest.

This year Chanukah coincides with the winter solstice, the shortest day / longest night of the year. I know that I will derive extra joy from lighting Chanukah candles on that night, symbolically bringing more light into the world at the time when this half of our planet is darkest.

How will you spend the months of late fall and early winter? These shortening days are a great time to curl up with a good book (borrow one from the CBI library!), to seek spiritual sustenance at shul (join us for meditation on Friday mornings at 9, and for Shabbat morning davenen on Saturday mornings at 9:30), and to enjoy the muted autumnal landscape of our beautiful Berkshire hills in their winter garb.

I wish you light as the days grow darker!

Rabbi Rachel

Service times

Periodic Friday nights (check our website)

Every Saturday
9:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
11ish a.m. Kiddush/Torah Study

Meditation minyan
Friday mornings, **9a.m.** No experience with meditation is required; all are welcome!

Shabbat candle and Havdalah times, November and December



If you want to light Shabbat candles and make havdalah at the halakhically-accepted times, here they are:

Nov 7 4:26p lighting; Nov 8 5:55p Havdalah
Nov 14 4:20p lighting; Nov 15 5:49p Havdalah
Nov 21 4:15p lighting; Nov 22 5:44p Havdalah
Nov 28 4:11p lighting; Nov 29 5:41p Havdalah

Dec 5 4:10p lighting; Dec 6 5:40p Havdalah
Dec 12 4:10p lighting; Dec 13 5:40p Havdalah
Dec 19 4:12p lighting; Dec 20 5:43p Havdalah

Dec. 19 is our Shabbat/Chanukah Party!

Join us for candle-lighting and festivities.

Dec 26 4:16p lighting; Dec 27 5:47p Havdalah

If it is your practice to light candles at a different hour of the day (perhaps not quite so early as halakha indicates during the winter, and not quite so late as halakha indicates during the summer), that's also a legitimate Reform Jewish choice. What's most important is that you're finding a way to incorporate Shabbat into your life.

Highlights from High Holiday Feedback

How did the CBI community respond to the Days of Awe this year? Here are some excerpts from the feedback we received after the holidays:

- Services were so lovely. I haven't been able to put my finger on what it is that makes listening to Rabbi Rachel such a comfort. There is nothing that takes place at CBI that calls for any inner adjustment on my part. It's all just *right*.
- The rabbi's sermon spoke right to me. It was absolutely perfect.
- Reb Rachel leads services with so much heart! I love it. The passion shines through.
- Words can't suffice to express my deep gratitude for all the ways you brought depth, meaning and beauty to these holy days.
- After the delightful break fast we left with a sense of greater understanding and deeper spirituality.
- Seeing the online service (livestreaming) was absolutely priceless: seeing, hearing, the wonderful flow of words and song and pauses and everything! The inclusiveness.
- I love the services. I don't always look forward to attending services in general, but CBI feels just right for me. Intimate, warm, inclusive, authentic.
- What worked for me was the sense of community that I felt. There was a coherence that grew throughout the holidays and energized me through the progression of the holy days
- I LOVE the new high holiday prayerbook. As a visitor to your congregation, it is an instrument that both enlightens me about the traditions and meaning behind the various parts of the service, and also the content and tone made me feel most welcome as a spiritual seeker who is not Jewish.
- Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services were beautiful and wonderful. I thank you

for conducting a moving, spiritual and intellectually stimulating service. The best that I ever attended.

- This has been a very hard year for me... Attending Kol Nidre was very meaningful to me. It opened my heart in painful but cathartic ways. Thank you for making me feel so welcome.
- These were among the most inspiring and spiritual High Holiday services I have attended in many years. Especially enjoyed Rabbi's sermons and the Cantor's melodies, both traditional and those less familiar.
- Since returning home, to my surprise, I have found myself several times thinking back on the rabbi's words — in fact, discussing and sharing them with others — in ways I have never done before. Thank you.
- I thought the new prayer book worked extremely well. It was engaging and easy to use to the point where I found myself reading and rereading more of the commentaries and translations than I remember doing in past years.

A Note from Hazzan Randall

My friends, it was truly an honor to share the high holidays with you.

Let us remember all the people and the contributions behind the scenes that made this experience so valuable for all of us.

Also, our congregation itself is so important to the success and resonance of the experience. The warmth and the involvement of this community was the foundation upon which these services were built.

May they continue to inspire us throughout the year!

—Student Hazzan Randall Miller

If you're ever looking for Shabbat teachings, resources, ideas, melodies, etc, check out the

Shabbat At Home

page on our website:
cbiweb.org/Shabbat-At-Home.html

New in our library: *Lilith* and *The Forward*

Did you know that we subscribe to two periodicals for the CBI library, and that these periodicals are available for you to borrow anytime you want to read them?



Lilith describes itself as "independent, Jewish, and frankly feminist." Since 1976, *Lilith* magazine has charted Jewish women's lives with exuberance, rigor, affection, subversion and style.

Inside the magazine you will find bold reporting and memoir, original fiction and poetry, and a lively take on tradition, celebrations and social change.

Curious about the magazine's name? According to legend, Lilith was the first woman, created even before Eve. She told Adam, "We are equal because we are created from the same earth."



The Jewish Daily Forward (Yiddish: פֿאַרווערטס), colloquially called *The Forward*, is a Jewish-American national newspaper published in New York City. The publication began in 1897 as a Yiddish-language daily issued by dissidents from the Socialist Labor Party of Daniel DeLeon. The organization today publishes two newspapers, weekly in English (*The Forward*) and biweekly in Yiddish (*Yiddish Forward*) or (פֿאַרווערטס / *Forverts*) and websites updated daily in both languages.

Sometimes, Silence Speaks Louder Than Words

Next time you're at CBI you may notice a dish of buttons which look like this:



The Hebrew letter *Shin*, ש, makes the sound "Shhh...." These buttons are available for anyone who wishes to be in community and prayer, but doesn't feel up to talking.

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The synagogue is meant to be a place for caring and comfort, even when you don't feel like talking. Our Shin buttons are for those who come here seeking peace without the requirement to chit-chat or even to answer the question, "How are you?" The Shin button says, "Shhh. I am in silence today. Please give me the space to be here without words."

Please respect people wearing a Shin button by offering a smile, a nod, but not conversation. By allowing people to worship with us, even when they don't feel like talking, we become a community that is safe for all, including those who may be in a time of pain or deep contemplation.

Don't Miss Our Chanukah Party on December 19!



Our congregational Chanukah party, featuring latkes and songs and togetherness, will be at **5:30pm on Friday evening, December 19th.**

Bring a vegetarian / dairy dish to share at the potluck. (We'll provide latkes.)

This year we'll have live music provided by the **Wholesale Klezmer Band!** All are welcome to soak up the music and listen with joy, or to put on your dancing shoes.



We hope to see you there! Please RSVP to the office by December 10 so we have some idea how many tables to set up and how many latkes to shop for.

A glimpse of Ne'arim



Seen here: two of our Ne'arim students learn how to tie tzitzit as part of a lesson on tzitzit (fringes), why we wear them, different ways of wearing them, and what they're supposed to help us remember (mitzvot, Jewishness, God.)

Annual Meeting Coming Up on Tues. Nov. 18...

...Now, With Food!



This year we're trying something new at the Annual Meeting. Not only will we offer a fun and energetic meeting featuring **status updates** on the past year and the opportunity to **elect Board members and officers for 2015**, but we're also offering **food beforehand** as an enticement! Come schmooze and nosh a little. Doors open at 7, meeting commences at 7:30.

New & Prospective Member Brunch: Nov. 15

On Shabbat morning, Saturday November 15, we'll hold a New and Prospective Member Brunch. Please join us to welcome new and prospective members to CBI at a brunch following services (~11 am) on Saturday, November 15. Feel free to join us for services and brunch or just for one or the other. All are welcome. Please RSVP to Jack by November 12.

Want to Edit this?

We're seeking a volunteer to edit this newsletter!

The CBI Newsletter comes out every two months. The editor's job is to compile submissions (and also to solicit them when required), to collect them into a readable and pleasant format, and to get a pdf of the newsletter to the office and the rabbi so that it can be uploaded to the From the Rabbi blog, emailed to our membership, and sent via postal mail to those who have requested paper newsletters. You can use whatever word processing program is comfortable for you.

If you are interested in taking this on, please let the rabbi know at rabbibarenblat@gmail.com. Thanks!

Take & Eat Receives Grant from Jewish Women's Foundation of Berkshire County

by Ed Oshinsky

The Jewish Women's Foundation of Berkshire County selected Congregation Beth Israel's Take and Eat program to receive a grant in the amount of \$2000.00 to help support its effort to supply weekend meals once a month to the homebound of North Adams who would otherwise be without food.

This grant also reflects how the Take and Eat program displays Tikkun Olam, the pursuit of social action and social justice, fixing what is broken in our society. CBI was one of only three recipients of grants from the Jewish Women's Foundation of Berkshire County.

In the spirit of tikkun olam, the Jewish Women's Foundation of Berkshire County is dedicated to sharing Jewish values by meeting unmet needs in the community and supporting social action. Past allocations have included support of the Jewish Transportation Network, food security, emergency fuel assistance, medical treatment transportation, Jewish camp scholarships, a women's shelter and Jewish programming at senior facilities.

Two Prayers For Thanksgiving

Want to increase your mindfulness of gratitude at your Thanksgiving table? Here are two prayers you might choose to recite before your festive meal:

A Prayer Before the Thanksgiving Meal

We thank You for this meal
and for all arrayed around this table;

for the earth from which this food emerged
and Your blessing which sustains that earth;

for the hands which planted, weeded, watered
and tended animals with loving care;

for the drivers who ferried ingredients
to our stores
and the workers who stocked the shelves;

for the ones who cooked what we eat today
and those whom we remember as we dine.

Help us to receive this meal as a gift
and to offer gratitude in return.

May the abundance which we enjoy
spur us to care for those who need.

Blessed are You, Source of all being,
Whose abundance is manifest
on this Thanksgiving day.

—*Rabbi Rachel Barenblat*

A Prayer for Thanksgiving

For all the boons in our lives
we offer our thanks to You our God
And in blessing your Name
we hope that all of life will bless You too
and especially today because:

In the days of the Pilgrims,
the Puritans, when they arrived
at these safe shores, suffered hunger and cold.

They sang and prayed
to the Rock of their Salvation.

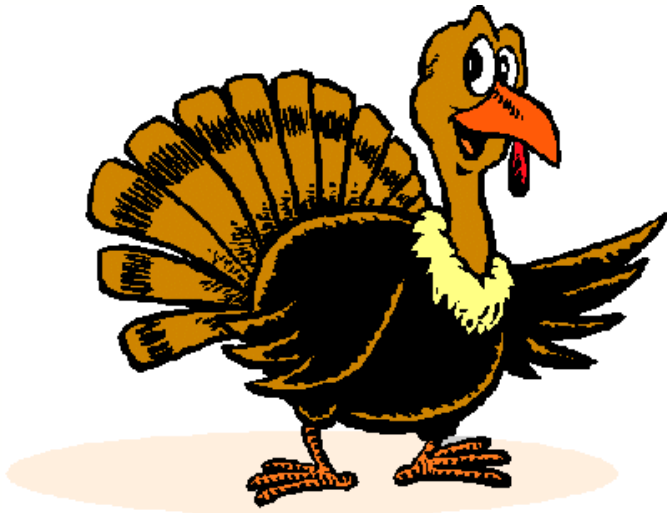
And You, standing by them,
roused the caring of the Natives for them:
who fed them, turkey and corn
and other delights.

Thus You saved them from starvation,
and they learned the ways of peace
with the inhabitants of the land.

Therefore, feeling grateful, they dedicated
a day of Thanksgiving each year
as a remembrance for future generations,
feeding unfortunates feasts of thanks.

Thus do we thank You
for all the good in our lives,
God of kindness, Lord of peace;
thus do we thank You!

—*Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi (z"l)*



The blessing for turkey:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, אֱלֹהֵינוּ רוּחַ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַכֹּל
נִהְיָה בְּדַבְּרוֹ.

*Baruch atah Adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam,
she-hakol ni-hi-yeh bid-varo.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, source of all being, through Whose word all things are created!

Thank You, CBI!

by Pattie Lipman

Food Drive. The new year began with grocery bags full of canned and packaged food brought by you during the High Holidays to donate to the Berkshire Food Project in North Adams.

Northern Berkshire Crop Walk. On October 19th, along with other faith communities, CBI members and friends donated to and walked the CROP Hunger Walk. "Looking to make a difference in these trying times, the Northern Berkshire CROP Hunger Walk raised funds to help stop hunger and poverty here in our community and around the world, through self-help initiatives. 25% of the funds raised here in Northern Berkshire will go to a local

initiative committed to help relieve hunger through feeding and education." We raised over \$300 and our mighty walkers were Chaim Bronstein, John Huffaker and yours truly. Ed Oshinsky handled the paper work.

It was a blustery day and we carried Stop Hunger signs around North Adams as we walked half of the North Adams Walking Trail, a route created by the city of North Adams. We walked past lovely historical homes, the practice of Doctor Len Radin, and the old Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue. Thank you Pam and Chaim, John Huffaker, Vince Teachout, Roberta Saunders, Jack Hockridge, Jane Shiyah, David Ranzer, Bob and Barbara Bashevkin, Terry Grossman, and Wendy Penner for your contributions. Let me know if I have left anyone out.

Take and Eat. The amazing Take and Eat crew continues to purchase, prepare, package and deliver meals once a month to the homebound in North Adams, with the same commitment they had at the beginning. Mensches all, you are an inspiration.

We are very grateful to have received a grant of \$2000 from the Berkshire Women's Foundation to help. Thanks to Dara Kaufman for encouraging us to apply and to Ed Oshinsky for submitting the application.

Pajama Drive!! During the cold winter months many children in our community go to sleep cold, without the comfort of warm pajamas. To meet this critical need PJ Library and Jewish Federation of the Berkshires are running a community-wide pajama drive Nov. 3 – Dec. 8. Drop off your brand new pajamas (sizes newborn to teen) in the box guarded, in a friendly way, by the big green kippah-wearing frog in the CBI foyer. Your generous donations will be delivered to the MA Department of Children and Families in Pittsfield.

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Tikkun Olam. A group of congregants has been meeting to discuss how CBI can learn about and respond to local and global social needs. If you are interested in sharing ideas about Tikkun Olam projects we could pursue this coming year and in the future, send Pattie Lipman an email to be included in mailings and notified of meetings.

Co-Presidents' Column

by Bill Levy

High holidays at CBI for 5775 did not disappoint! As an usher at each of the services I had the opportunity to experience the entire event, although I was occasionally preoccupied in the parking lot. On Erev Rosh Hashanah, three congregants—Steve Green, Rich Cohen and Wendy Penner—had the opportunity to talk about their own personal experiences with hope.

We welcomed cantorial soloist Randall Miller back to the northern Berkshires (he was previously here as a physician) and he was an outstanding addition to our services with his beautiful voice and positive, friendly attitude. It was clear that Hazzan Randall and Reb Rachel had spent many hours in preparation for the HHDs and their voices blended together beautifully. This year Reb Rachel introduced her machzor including photographs by congregants. It seemed to be well received.

Our gratitude goes out to Reb Rachel for her music, her poetry and her sermons that were the foundation of a beautiful and stimulating series of services.

I hope everyone will send their comments about the HHDs to Reb Rachel and include both spiritual and logistical aspects.

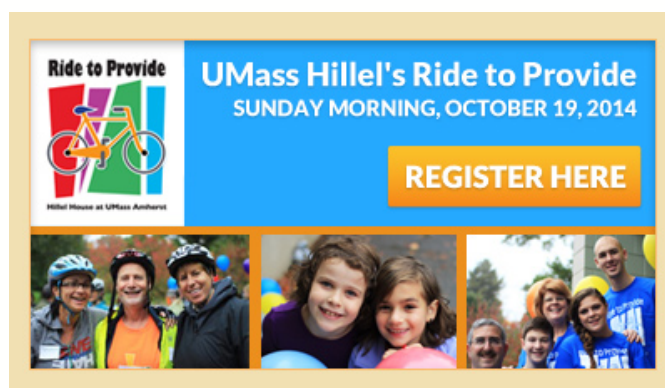
Ride Share

Are you in need of a ride to and from CBI to attend services or events?

Are you in need of a ride for local errands or appointments?

The CBI community can try to help. Please let Jack know what your needs are.

If you are able and willing to share rides or give rides, please send your information on your availability to Jack (office@cbi-web.org)



UMass Ride to Provide

by Len Radin

Hillel at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst brings a world view to the Jewish community on campus. Jewish students have been engaged in health care in rural Nicaragua and housing for Katrina victims. Students help the elderly in Argentina and Ethiopian immigrants in Israel. Hillel offers a wide variety of "alternate spring break trips" to both aid those in need and enrich the lives of its student members.

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The annual fund raiser for these projects is the Ride to Provide. Last year the ride raised \$68,000 and offered its participants a 3, 9, 18 and 36 mile bike ride route complete with

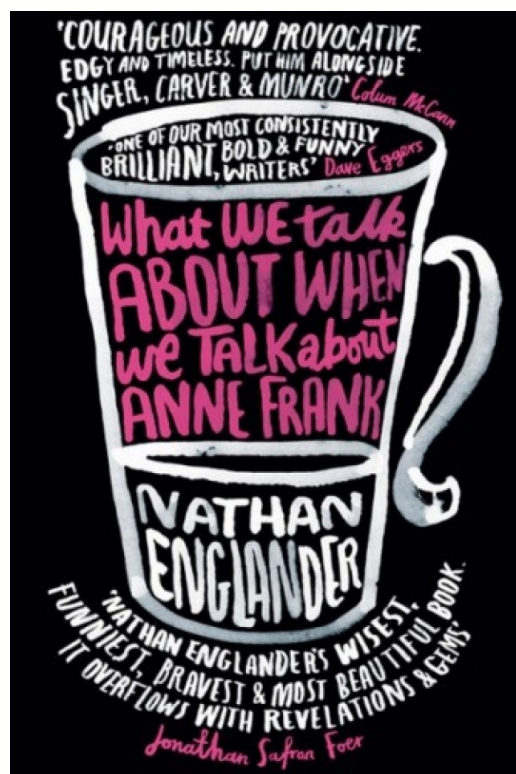
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food, tee shirts, water bottles and other goodies. This year I participated and rode through 36 miles of gorgeous rural roads at the height of fall foliage. I had never seen the great majority of these roads even though my relatives and I have been attending UMass almost continuously since the late 60s.

The Ride to Provide offered bicycling teams of at least five members a way to raise funds for their own organizations as well as Hillel. I invite CBI members to join me next year on the UMass campus. Half of the funds raised will go to CBI and we will get our own team tee shirts. This non-competitive event and the CBI cyclist team is open to cyclists of all ages and abilities. Please contact me or the CBI office if you are interested in riding next October in the UMass Ride to Provide.

CBI Book Group

The CBI Book Group will be discussing some terrific titles in months to come, including:



What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank, fiction by Nathan Englander, at 7pm on Monday, December 8;



The Crisis of Zionism, nonfiction by Peter Beinart, January date TBA;

Super Sad True Love Story, fiction by Gary Shtengart, February date TBA;

Second Person Singular, nonfiction by Sayed Kashua, March date TBA;

Badenheim 1939, fiction by Aharon Appelfeld, April date TBA;

Judaism and Justice: the Jewish Passion to Repair the World, nonfiction by Rabbi Sidney Schwartz, May date TBA;

Brothers Ashkenazi, fiction by Israel Joseph Singer, June date TBA;

Like Dreamers, fiction by ossi Klein Halevi, July date TBA;

The War on Women in Israel: The Story of Religious Radicalism, nonfiction by Elana Maryles Sztokman, August date TBA.

All are welcome. For more information, email Chaim Bronstein at chaim@bcn.net.

CBI Community School News

Hi Everyone,

I'm so glad to have joined your school this year! It's such a great pleasure to meet our school children and parents and really fun to work with our teachers and help shape our school experiences.

Our Monday school is vibrant with two full classes, an Aleph Tav class with about 12, 5-9 year olds; and Ne'arim with about 12 10-12 year olds. Aleph Tav is led by Jane Shiyah and assisted by Jen Burt. They share Hebrew language, Torah stories and also share Mitzvot as a big idea for thinking about others and what's really important.

Jen organized a terrific full school Sukkot celebration for us. She brought in enough supplies so three groups of multi-age children could build free standing Sukkot. The building began after an introduction to Sukkot by Reb Rachel for the whole school. Check out the photos on Facebook!

Ne'arim, led by Reb Rachel and assisted by Heather Levy, has a similar structure of Hebrew language, holidays and Mitzvot. We break up into small groups for Hebrew language and stay all together for the other work. I've been enjoying helping out with this class and getting to know our kids.

For the past two weeks, Ne'arim has learned to tie tzitzit, the knotted fringes that we see in the corners of a Tallit. They are attaching them to a Tallit Katan, a small tallit, kind of like an undershirt with fringes in the corner. Not only are they learning to tie them, but then they get to experiment with wearing them too. This is prompting all sorts of wonderful questions about what's really important to remember in our lives, what does "oneness" mean to us (tzitzit are mentioned in the daily prayer, the Shema which was also studied), is it ever different if other people know we are Jewish, or not... Stay tuned for updates from these "reports from the field".

One thing that is new this year is that each week we are starting all together with group games and snack. This has been a great way for the classes to get to know each other and build our community. In addition, we are ending together, for the last 15 minutes with songs, plays, stories and assorted surprises. Parents are welcome to come inside for these last minutes and join their children for these activities, Stay tuned for special parent's night on a date still to be determined.

Did you know that a benefit of being part of the CBI community school is that we are also part of the Jewish Federation? They are dedicated to regional Jewish education and support our school with nearly 300 dollars PER STUDENT!

The Jewish Federation is like the United Way...in fact, United Way was based upon the work of the older Jewish Federation. They operate simply...they collect money from the whole community and their board divides it back up to support the community. In addition to education, they also support elders, the hungry, provide a part-time social worker for the community and many more vital projects.

One thing they ask of us, is that we participate as we can. They are very clear that contributing \$5 from 10 of us is much better than \$50 from one of us. Please look for the Federation envelopes in the lobby! Currently, 38% of our community has contributed. Last year we had 69%. Can we do even better this year? We have until Dec 31.

Please, don't be scared of Pirate Pete in the lobby. He's a polite pirate that is helping us get the word out that we are collecting new children's Pajama's for those in need. This is a great federation sponsored project. By the way, can you tell that Pirate Pete's favorite letter is a P? Many think a pirate's favorite letter is an R (rrr). Actually, it's P...it looks just like an Rrrrr, AND it's missing a leg... smiles.

Lastly, feel free to write or phone with questions, feedback, home study aids, holiday ideas; about our monthly preschool family programs *continued...*

(we had a great trip to Whitney Farm in Oct) or new teen programs (Check out the next article, about the Dec. 7 New York Trip); or just to volunteer for a day and to say hi.

Thank you all for supporting our school in so many different ways!

All the best,

David Arfa
Education Director

December 7: teen trip to New York

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires and the Jewish Women's Foundation are offering a trip to New York City for Jewish teens on the 7th of December. This is a trip to New York City to see the Museum of Jewish Heritage; it is free to our 7th and 8th graders, along with one parent chaperone apiece.

The trip is open to all 7th and 8th graders (B'nai Mitzvah and Post B'nai Mitzvah children) and to 1 parent chaperone per family. It includes bus transport, admission, guided tour & kosher lunch.

The bus will depart at 8am from the Lenox Price Chopper. The teens will visit the Museum of Jewish Heritage and enjoy a guided tour; they will hear from a Holocaust survivor; they will eat lunch together. The group will return to Lenox around 7:40pm.

We need to tell Federation who's coming from CBI by **November 21**. Please let Rabbi Rachel know if you're interested! This will be a wonderful experience: a great chance to see a museum which chronicles some of our heritage (with guided tour, etc) and also to spend a day with other Jewish kids from the greater Berkshire community.

Upcoming Occasions

We wish happy birthdays and anniversaries to our members who have simchas during the coming months.

November Birthdays

Jacqueline Smith
Louis Gotlieb
Michael Kaplan
Adam Filson
James Melcher
Marc Jaffe
Hailey Ann Burt
Sarah Wees
Wendy Penner
Jane Miller
Joan Rubel
Vivienne Jaffe
Linda Becker
Talia Marshall
Susan Adler
Mara Wineberg
Drew Zuckerman
Timothy Herrmann

November Anniversaries

Laura Schoenbaum & John Gerry
Rabbi Pamela Wax & Chaim Bronstein
Marc & Lauren Gotlieb

December Birthdays

Levi McGuire
Marsha Landry
Mark Feder
James McAllister
Katie Rose Radin
Susan Gold
Florence Wineberg
David Kelly-Whitney
Jim Callahan
David Rothschild
Jackie Rich
Michael Smith
Barbara Bashevkin
Robert Kraus
Ron Turbin
Caleb Strait
Joel Lentzner

December Anniversaries

Ron & Judy Turbin
Pattie Lipman & John Huffaker

Simchas

Congratulations to **Robin Brickman** and **Jeff Strait** on the engagement of their son Caleb to his fiancée Jessica!

Deep thanks to donors

We offer gratitude to members and friends for their fiscal support of CBI.

High Holiday Appeal (Additional since last newsletter)

Marvin & Liana Barenblat
Robert & Barbara Bashevkin
Robert & Carol Braun
Robin Brickman & Jefferson Strait
Erin Casey & Jonah Marshall
Becky & Daniel Cellana
Richard Cohen & Cheryl Sacks
Karen & David DeForest
Richard & Anna Jo Dubow
Bruce & Laura Dumouchel
Belle Fabel
Mark Feder
Amy & Adam Filson
Lee & Martha Gaynor
Lillian Glickman
Susan Gold
Susan Goldblatt
Martin Greenstein & Natalie Jacobson
Cindy Kaplan
Susan Kaufman
Herbert & Lois Kravis
Marc & Vivienne Jaffe
Leona Deborah Jochnowitz, Esq.
Charles & Ellen Joffe-Halpern
Ira & Frances Beth Lapidus
Joel & Nina Lentzner
Pattie Lipman
Jane & Robert Miller
Judith Mintz
John Mueller & Sheila Roman
Wendy Penner & Steve Fein
Maribeth & David Pomerantz
David & Joanne Ranzer
Charlene Rosen
Elma & Donald Sanders

Howard & Roberta Saunders
Laura Schoenbaum & John Gerry
Cheryl Small
Warner & Amely Smith
Roberta & John Sullivan
Ronald & Melissa Sunog
Susan Taskin
Audrey Thier & Peter Murphy
Ron & Judy Turbin
Paulette Wein
Susan & Charles Welsch
Robert Werbel
Ellen Wineberg

Donation to Take & Eat Program In Honor of Cole Filson's Bar Mitzvah

Richard Cohen & Cheryl Sacks
Edward Cott

Donation to Education Fund In Honor of Cole Filson's Bar Mitzvah & In Honor of Jane Miller During Her Recovery

Wendy Penner

Donation to Ruthie's Lunch Bunch In honor of Jane Miller during her recovery

Lillian Glickman
Fischel & Dorothy Myers

General Donations

Clair Blair
Rosemarie Gumpel

In memory of Harold Renfield

Richard & Anna Jo Dubow

In memory of Fanny and Israel Cookis

Sharon Karlan

In memory of Marilyn Klein

Dick Klein

continued...

In memory of Lawrence Staudt

Richard & Barbara Lerner

In memory of Jean Melville

Len & Darlene Radin

In appreciation of CBI community

David & Joanne Ranzer

In memory of Bernard & Andrew Wishnek

Jane Shiyah

In appreciation

David Towler

Donations Welcome

Donations to CBI are always welcome, and may be directed to:

Cemetery Fund
Education Fund
Building Fund
Senior Lunch Fund
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
Take & Eat
Program/Event Fund
Gemilut Chasadim (Acts of Lovingkindness)

The *Gemilut Chasadim* ("Acts of Lovingkindness") Fund (also known as a *gemach*) will help to support acts such as cooking meals / buying groceries for those who are in fiscal need or who are too ill to shop/cook.

Seeking Shamashim

The Shamashim are the people who facilitate the Saturday morning services, set out kiddush and bring some snacks for after services. The group is named after the

shamash, the "helper candle" which lights the candles on a Chanukah menorah.

We are in need of additional Shamashim to help with our Shabbat services each Saturday morning and on periodic Friday nights. The Shamashim have been faithfully hosting our services for years but we need to expand that group by a few. It takes a Saturday morning, from about 9 to noon, once or twice in a 4 month time period.

Hosting services is an honor. It is also a joy, a way to meet members and welcome potential members and visitors. Bringing your children or spouse is welcome, and they can help or just relax and enjoy the service and the beautiful light streaming through the sanctuary windows. That's up to you.

Helping at services is a way to teach children about serving the community and performing a mitzvah.

We provide challah and juice; you are welcome to bring light snacks for the kiddush afterwards, though if that would be fiscally onerous for you, let us know and we can work something out.

If it is something you would like to try, Pattie can match you with one of our hosts for your first hosting experience. If you have questions, ask away!

All are welcome!

Next Newsletter...

If you have items to submit for the Jan/ Feb newsletter, please submit them **via e-mail** to rabbibarenblat@gmail.com by **December 15, 2014**.

Thanks!

Ethiopian Jewry

For the last 30 years, the Israel Association for Ethiopian Jews (IAEJ) has been providing assistance for more than 140,000 Ethiopian Jews in Israel and Ethiopia with education, housing, job training, advocacy, and community empowerment. Your generous tax-deductible contribution will make a difference. For information, to make a contribution, or to join the mailing list, contact the IAEJ at Friends of Ethiopian Jews, PO Box 960059, Boston MA 02196.

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- www.facebook.com/CBINorthAdams
- www.cbiweb.org
- congregationbethisrael.wordpress.com

A poem for your enjoyment

Autumn Nightfall

You mix the watercolors of the evening
like my son, swishing his brush
until the waters are black with paint.
The sky is streaked and dimming.

The sun wheels over the horizon
like a glowing penny falling into its slot.
Day is spent, and in its place:
 the changing moon,
the spatterdash of stars across
 the sky's expanse.

Every evening we tell ourselves the old story:
You cover over our sins, forgiveness
like a fleece blanket tucked around our ears.
When we cry out, You will hear.

Soothe my fear of life without enough light.
Rock me to sleep in the deepening dark.

—Rabbi Rachel Barenblat, 2013

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