

קהילה בני ישראל
Congregation B'nai Israel

December
2011

Kehila

Kislev/Tevet
5772

Happy Hanukkah!

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The CBI newsletter is published 11 times per year, monthly except in July.

The next KEHILA is the JANUARY 2011 Issue
FIRM DEADLINE: DECEMBER 9

HELP US TO HELP YOU. PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MEET THE DEADLINE.

Submit entries in person or via email.

Pictures and ads should be submitted in .jpg format

Congregation B'nai Israel
253 Prospect Street, Northampton MA 01060
413-584-3593 bnai.israel@verizon.net
www.cbinorthampton.org

From the Rabbi



Rabbi Justin David

A few years ago, I received an e-mail from a rabbinic colleague who was announcing a new project. He was glowing. While on a retreat, he experienced an epiphany – his new work was to promote the experience of gratitude. And since that time, this colleague has written a book, edited a Haggadah, and started a blog, www.gratefulrabbi.com. Check it out - I especially like the YouTube video drash on kvetching.

His example reminds me of something very simple - that gratitude is a spiritual practice. It's not enough to wait for a spontaneous feeling of satisfaction to be grateful. We have to name our experiences of being thankful, and we have to seek out the opportunities to express our gratitude.

Jewish tradition teaches us much about cultivating a regular practice of gratitude. For those who pray every day, a prayer of thanksgiving is a staple of meditation and contemplation. That prayer, toward the end of the Amidah (silent prayer), reminds us to give thanks “for the miracles that are with us daily: evening, morning and afternoon.” The things we experience everyday are miracles, whether we name them as such or not. Doing so, however, makes us aware of a dimension of grandeur in our lives. And as this prayer is recited three times a day, every day, it reminds us that being grateful takes a lot of work.

But how celebratory and healing it is to live this way! We get something out of acknowledging people in our lives, whether we know them well or not. In community, sharing appreciation transforms our relationships. Whether thanking someone for performing some mundane but necessary task or acknowledging their generosity in visiting someone in the hospital, we are saying “You have gifts that we need. Thank you for sharing that bit of the divine image with us.” Try one of those thank yous, whether you know the person or not, and take note of the expression in their eyes.

Hanukkah teaches us about the spirituality of gratitude. The lighting of the menorah is, according to the Talmud, an expression of thanksgiving. The focus on miracles, an invention of the Rabbis, speaks to our need to find wonder in the everyday. And when we do, we bring much needed renewal and healing to the world and to ourselves.

Wishing everyone a season of light and gratitude,

Rabbi Justin David

From the Executive Director



Ben Cuperman
Exec. Director

There are many unsung heroes at Congregation B'nai Israel. Among them are the chairs of the many committees who work tirelessly at fulfilling their individual mandates and are listed at the beginning of this Kehila. You can see some committee reports in the minutes in this December edition.

As we approach the end of the year, I want to bring everyone's attention to CBI and fundraising. I am, of course, referring to the Annual Year End Gift campaign. The deadline for the 2011 donations is December 31, and we do hope that you will think of us as this date approaches. All contributions received by December 31 will be included in your annual statement of donations. As you plan your year end donations, remember CBI. We count on all of you to make an effort and support us, and we thank you in advance for your generosity and warmth of spirit.

Another fundraising effort is our Scrip sales. This is one way to support us, and all can participate. We all go shopping, and the pre-paid cards are available at the office during the week and on many Sundays. I will personally be in the synagogue on Sunday, December 11, the same day that Sisterhood is holding their Hanukkah Gift Shop Sale. I look forward to meeting you. Finally, a big thank you goes to Randi Klein, an active volunteer in promoting and administering this program.

Our Kiddush operations have moved to another level of excellence. Shelley Steuer, who is the chair of the Kitchen committee, deserves much praise for putting a kitchen volunteer program together, as do all the volunteers who have stepped forward. Thank you, too, for the many compliments on our menus – these are largely due to the extraordinary chef talents of Bianca Cuperman, who has greatly upgraded our Kiddush quality and presentation. I know that are many chefs out there, and we welcome you to join us to create ever more diverse and excellence menus.

My six months in Northampton have come and gone very quickly. One of the most important tasks that I assigned myself was interviewing all the Board members, and I am happy to report that I just finished my last interview. The wealth of knowledge that was gathered is incredible and fascinating and relative to my continued success here at CBI. I look forward to making more contributions to CBI and the community. Please join me by doing what works in developing a sense of community and volunteers. I am, of course, referring to a three letter word that makes a difference: YES – say it as often as possible.

CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY BY SPONSORING A KIDDUSH

Consider sponsoring a Kiddush to celebrate your birthday or co-sponsor with others born in the same month.

Contact Ben Cuperman, Executive Director for more information on how to sponsor a Kiddush at (413) 584-3593 or email cbidirector@verizon.net

Thank you for helping support the special time we spend together enjoying the sweetness of Shabbat!

CBI NEW MEMBERS HAVADALAH PARTY

Please join us to warmly welcome our new members at our Pot-Luck Havdalah Party. We will begin at 4:30 pm with a Havdalah ceremony under the stars at the beautiful CBI Garden (weather permitting). Then we will gather in the LGA Social Hall for a Pot-Luck Dinner and a chance to get to know each other better.

Bring your own Kiddush cup. We will provide Havdalah candles and materials to make your own spice box. Children Welcome.

Host: Tamar Fields 413 584-3084 (Please RSVP)
When: Saturday, December 17 at 4:30 pm
Where: CBI/LGA, 253 Prospect St., Northampton

From the President

Experiencing and Expressing Gratitude



Ellen Kaufman
President

The power outage resulting from the early fall snow storm took me totally by surprise. During the first few days I found myself repeatedly and automatically reaching for light switches, and experiencing disappointment and annoyance when nothing happened. I was sure that I would be filled with gratitude when electricity was finally restored; and I was grateful—for about an hour. A month later I no longer experience gratitude for my electricity and instead I yearn for other things I don't have—a reasonable dishwasher, a dry basement, the list goes on. Gratitude is not an easy emotion to sustain.

And experiencing gratitude is one of the themes of *Parshah Vayishlach*, which we study later this month. Jacob, returning home after thirty four years in hiding and anxious about his upcoming encounter with Esau, prays to G-d for a successful outcome:

I have been made small from all of the kindness and all of the truth which You have done for [me]" (Genesis 32:11)

It's an interesting way to begin a supplication for help—by expressing gratitude. Jacob has been blessed through the years with a family and both material and spiritual prosperity. As Rabbi Ben A explains, when we are recipients of great blessings, we can respond in either of two ways: we can feel important and entitled as if we deserve all these blessings, or we can feel filled with gratitude and humility at our good fortune. Jacob feels and expresses the latter; he feels 'made small' from all the kindness and truth which he has received through Divine favor. It's not hard to feel the different effects resulting from these two attitudes. When we feel entitled to our blessings, there's anger and disappointment if and when we lose them. If we follow Jacob's example, and continually remind ourselves of our blessings with humility and gratitude, we're likely to encounter the loss of those blessings, whether temporary or permanent, with more equanimity.

Expressing gratitude, whether to G-d or to one another, is another practice that helps to open our hearts and to bless those around us. There are many people, including those in our congregational community, whose efforts enhance our lives. There are **lay leaders**, including **Board members**, who work hard to support the functions of the community. Our **executive director, Ben Cuperman**, is generous with his time and efforts and extends himself well beyond the call of duty; **Rabbi David**, beginning his tenth year here at CBI, is unfailingly kind and open to members; **Joe Niedzwiecki** oversees the building with care and skill as if it were his own; **Diane Todrin**, has cooked for our Valley Jewish Seniors for many years. We are blessed by these and many more, without whose efforts our experience here would be diminished. I encourage us to take the time to express our gratitude to all those who enhance our lives, thereby bestowing mutual blessings and bringing light into our own hearts and the hearts of those around us in these months of early darkness.

B'shalom,
Ellen

Share Your Thoughts

The Personnel Committee welcomes your input as we start the process of the Rabbi's biennial (every two years) review.

If you have comments or suggestions, please put them in writing and send them to Larry Hott, the committee chair. We have also made time for people who would like to meet individually with the committee on Monday, December 5, 2011. Ten-minute slots are available starting at 7:00 PM and ending at 8:30 PM.

Please send requests for a meeting time or comments and suggestions to Larry Hott at hott@florentinefilms.org.

From the Education Director



Rabbi Charni Flame Selch
Interim Education Director

As we enter December, and the Jewish month of Kislev, things are going well in the religious school and with the family programs — and I hope everyone has taken the time to check out our bulletin boards in the school hallway. They show our classes and the wonderful Sukkot program we had. We have started a monthly assembly of the entire school so that we can sing a little and talk about upcoming events. We are lucky to have some very talented musicians among our staff, and it's always nice to have all the students interact together.

The next big thing on our agenda is, of course, Hanukkah. Hanukkah is one of my favorite holidays. I consider it an 'adding' holiday. We celebrate like every other Jewish holiday, with special Torah reading and hallel singing and holiday specific prayers but then we get to 'add' foods and games and stories and gifts. And we get to add extra days so we celebrate not one or two, like most Jewish holidays, but 8 days. I think Hanukkah is so popular because it is celebrated for

8 days. It gives people a chance to continue family traditions but also to create new traditions.

Each family can create traditions that incorporate the ideals and values which are important to it. Share stories of family Hanukkah traditions, everything from home-made latkes and a neighborhood dreidle party, to creating personal menorahs. During Hanukkah, we have the opportunity to ask questions and get suggestions for creating new holiday experiences.

In my home when I was growing up, we had the wonderful tradition of having a Hanukkiah, a Hanukkah menorah, for each person. This was true whether we had the immediate family of five or the extended friends and family of twenty-five. We would chant the blessings, light the candles, sing songs and open presents by the flickering light of the Hanukkiyot.

One year, we had a group of twenty-five, and as we ate latkes in the room adjacent to the candles, we noticed the light was just a bit brighter and realized that the table the candles sat on was also ablaze. After we put out the fire, calmed all the children and aired out the room, we started a new family tradition of putting the largest Hanukkiyah, on a fire-proof tray, over the burnt spot on the table.

Hanukkah, as we know, is a holiday of 'rededication'. While it is a relatively unimportant holiday in the greater scheme of things, it is a well known and well celebrated holiday. I'd like to suggest that the traditions that we create for ourselves and our families, follow the theme of rededication, of renewal. Renew family time together, take a class or clean the basement — or renew your intentions to volunteer.

Renew your involvement in the synagogue. We have some exciting things happening including a special Grinspoon sponsored Shabbat celebration on Friday, December 2 with Felicia Sloin. Peggy Walker and Anna Sobel are continuing their Shabbat morning programs on the first and second shabbatot of each month. And Pamela and Joel are leading the Shabbat Sing on the third Shabbat. If it is your Hanukkah tradition to give gifts, then why not give yourself and the CBI congregation the gift of your time and presence in the community

Happy Hanukkah Rabbi Selch

Gan Keshet Notes



Visualize with Us

What would you put in an outdoor environment that supports children's learning, adult education, and community gatherings?



Gan Keshet is beginning to develop plans for a natural playground, a place where children can explore.

As we develop our plans, we will be removing/adapting old play structures and adding temporary installations for the children to play on.



We hope the community enjoys these installations too.

L'itrahot,
Wendy & Staff



TO CBI FAMILIES

THANK YOU for participating and helping us raise funds for scholarships at Gan Keshet. Each school year, on an average, we are able to provide support to about 3-4 families. It's not a huge amount; however as we all know, every little bit helps. This year we raised \$265.00 (approx. 15% of \$1800.00 in sales). Many of the families who enter GK continue on to LGA. Between the scholarship, HGF Right Start Grant, and PIP, we are pleased that there are opportunities for assistance.



GAN KESHET

Rainbow Garden

*Jewish Community Preschool
of the Pioneer Valley*

- Play-Based
- Discovery Oriented
- Part & Full Day Options
- Extended Day Available Until 5:15 pm
- Summer Program

**ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR
THE 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR**

Come visit. Meet our experienced staff.
Explore our classrooms with your child.

**Open House for Prospective Families:
Sunday, December 11, 2:00-3:30 pm
(Snow Date: Sunday, December 18)**

We value diversity & welcome all families in the community.

Ask about the HGF Right Start Grant.
Your family could be eligible to receive \$500-\$1000 towards your child's tuition.

**253 Prospect St., Northampton
(413) 584-3593, ext. 204
director.gankeshet@verizon.net**

Explorations in Tefilah

Shabbat of Singing

SATURDAY MORNING
DECEMBER 10

Led by Rabbi Justin David
With Amitai Wilson



Please join us for this Shabbat morning service in which we maximize the opportunities to sing together as a community. Incorporating practices and melodies that have energized new minyanim around the country, we will create a service that builds in energy over the course of the morning and welcomes all of us to a tefilah experience of song. Musaf will be especially rich.

All are welcome.

CALENDAR

Kol Shabbat: A Shabbat of Voices

*With
Felicia Sloin &
her ensemble of inspiring singers*

Friday evenings at 6:00 pm
in the CBI Library



Please join us as we weave new musical offerings with traditional prayers and Psalms for a unique Shabbat experience. Felicia Sloin has developed a reputation as someone who invites us to join together in stirring and soulful melodies. These services will be designed to engage those of us who are new to Jewish prayer and Hebrew as well as those of us for whom Jewish prayer is a familiar practice.

December 9
January 27
March 30
June 8

ALL ARE WELCOME

Loss and Healing:

The Jewish View of Death

A CBI Salon

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 7:00 PM

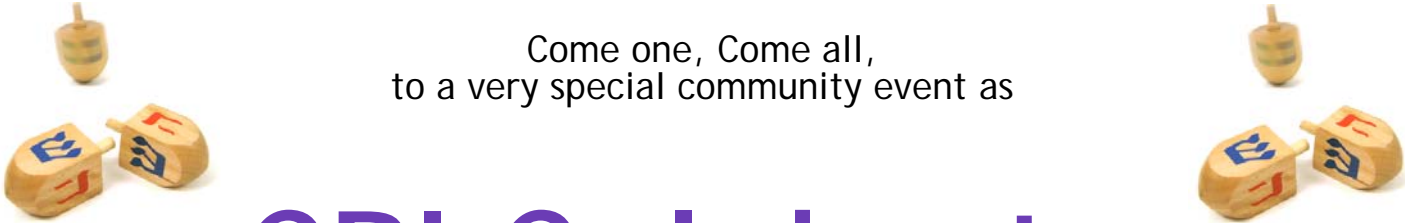
at the home of:

Carol and Brad Katz
20 Bridge St.
Florence, MA 01062

Please join us for this CBI Salon where we will reflect on the wisdom in Jewish mourning. A CBI Salon gives us the opportunity to join in meaningful conversation around Jewish ideas in an intimate and informal setting.

ALL ARE WELCOME





Come one, Come all,
to a very special community event as

CBI Celebrates Hanukkah!

Thursday, December 22, 5-7 pm

*Experience the joy and beauty
Of Hanukkah in community*

5:00—5:45

Adult Study with Rabbi David:
The Hanukkah You Never Learned About.

5:45 - 6:15

Light the Hanukkiah and
Dance, Sing and otherwise Rock Out to the
Tunes of CBI Friends—
Becky Miller, Tom Randall, Joel Gordon.

6:15—7:00






Delicious Latkes, Sufganiyot and
Serious Games of Dreidel.






Bring your own Menorah and candles and we will light them together
for a beautiful community moment.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Month of December

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
4 9:30 AM: HEVREI MITZVOT MEN'S CLUB MEETING (SEE PAGE 15 FOR MORE INFO.) 3:30 PM: HANUKKAH & CHRISTMAS: NAVIGATING THE HOLIDAY SEASON (SEE PAGE 17 FOR MORE INFO.)	5	6 12:30 PM: TUESDAY TEXT STUDY With Rabbi David at CBI	7
11 11:00-NOON: SISTERHOOD HANUKKAH SALE 9:00—12 noon: GAN KESHET OPEN HOUSE The GK Staff invites prospective families to come explore the classrooms.	12	13 12:30 PM: TUESDAY TEXT STUDY With Rabbi David at CBI 7:00 PM: A SPECIAL SALON Loss & Healing: The Cycle of Jewish Mourning (See page 10 for more info)	14
18 11:00-NOON: SISTERHOOD HANUKKAH SALE 9:00—12 noon:	19	20 12:30 pm: TUESDAY TEXT STUDY With Rabbi David at CBI First Night of Hanukkah 	21 12:30 PM: VALLEY SENIORS LUNCHEON (See page 15 for more info) Second Night of Hanukkah 
25 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL Sixth Night of Hanukkah 	26 CBI & GAN KESHET CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS Seventh Night of Hanukkah 	27 GAN KESHET CLOSED NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 12:30 pm: TUESDAY TEXT STUDY With Rabbi David at CBI Eighth Night of Hanukkah 	28 GAN KESHET CLOSED NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Month of December

<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
<p>1 8:00 AM: LECHA DUMIYAH TEHILLA MEDITATION</p>	<p>2 4:01 PM: SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING 6:00 PM: CONNECTING WITH FAMILY & SHABBAT: A SPECIAL FAMILY SHABBAT EVENT With Rabbi David & Felicia Sloin (See page 14 for more info)</p>	<p>3 9:30 AM: SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY <i>Parashat Vayeitzei</i> 11:00 AM: TOT SHABBAT WITH PEGGY WALKER 5:05 PM: SHABBAT ENDS</p>
<p>8 8:00 AM: LECHA DUMIYAH TEHILLA MEDITATION 7:00 PM: THE WORLD OF THE ZOHAR (Last Class)</p>	<p>9 4:00 PM: SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING 6:00 PM: KABBALAT SHABBAT EVENING SERVICES 6:00 PM: KOL SHABBAT WITH FELICIA SLOIN (See page 10 for more info)</p> <p>KEHILA DEADLINE: ALL SUBMISSIONS DUE</p>	<p>10 9:30 AM: SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY <i>Parashat Vayishlach</i> EXPLORATIONS OF TEFILAH: SHABBAT OF SINGING PROGRAM (See page 9 for more info) 11:00 AM: SHABBAT FAMILY MINYAN 5:05 PM: SHABBAT ENDS 5:50 PM: BOOK & CD RELEASE PARTY (SEE PAGE 14 FOR MORE INFO)</p>
<p>15 8:00 AM: LECHA DUMIYAH TEHILLA MEDITATION 7:30 PM: CBI BOARD MEETING</p>	<p>16 4:01 PM: SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING 6:00 PM: KABBALAT SHABBAT EVENING SERVICES</p>	<p>17 9:30 AM: SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY <i>Parashat Vayeishev</i> 9:30 AM: LIMUD MINYAN 11:00 AM: SHABBAT SING AFTER KIDDUSH: NANCY FLAM- PRESENTATION—EMBRACING IMAGINATION: GOD AS “YOU” 4:30 PM NEW MEMBERS HAVDALAH PARTY (SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE INFO) 5:06PM: SHABBAT ENDS</p>
<p>22 8:00 AM: LECHA DUMIYAH TEHILLA MEDITATION 5:00 PM: CBI CELEBRATES HANUKKAH (See page 11 for more info)</p> <p>Third Night of Hanukkah</p> <div style="text-align: right;"></div>	<p>23 4:04 PM: SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING 6:00 PM: KABBALAT SHABBAT EVENING SERVICES</p> <p>Fourth Night of Hanukkah</p> <div style="text-align: right;"></div>	<p>24 9:30 AM: SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY <i>Parashat Mikeitz</i> 5:09 PM: SHABBAT ENDS</p> <p>Fifth Night of Hanukkah</p> <div style="text-align: right;"></div>
<p>29 GAN KESHET CLOSED NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 8:00 AM: LECHA DUMIYAH TEHILLA MEDITATION</p>	<p>30 GAN KESHET CLOSED 4:09 PM: SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING 6:00 PM: KABBALAT SHABBAT EVENING SERVICES</p>	<p>31 9:30 AM: SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY <i>Parashat Va-yiggash</i></p>

CALENDAR

CONNECTING WITH SHABBAT & FAMILY

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 2
6:00 pm

Join us at CBI on Friday, December 2 as the fabulously fun Felicia Sloin and Rabbi Justin David welcome Shabbat with song and spirit.

The Harold Grinspoon Foundation.



This is THE perfect family Shabbat event.

Dinner to follow.
This event is sponsored by CBI and

SHABBAT CHILDCARE

Free drop-in childcare is available from 9:45 am to the end of each Shabbat morning service for children ages 1 - 8.

If you have any questions please contact Amy Wolpin at wolpin.amy@gmail.com.

We are looking for donations of new or gently used books, games, puzzles, and preschool toys.



GAN KESHET

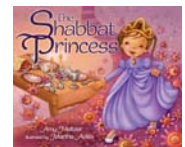
**Open House for Prospective Families:
Sunday, December 11, 2:00-3:30 pm
(Snow Date: Sunday, December 18)**

Around the Valley...For Families.

BOOK & CD RELEASE PARTY

DECEMBER 10
5:30-7:30 pm

Join Amy Meltzer and Felicia Sloin for a children's book and CD release party in the CBI social hall on December 10 from 5:30 - 7:30. The event will include a book reading and concert, havdallah and bagels and cake.



BE A PJ PAL

Preschoolers, 2-4 years,
join us, along with your parent or caregivers, for these monthly Jewish themed activities.

Sunday, December 18, 10-11:30 am
Bring the whole family and join author and LGA Kindergarten teacher, Amy Meltzer, for a sparkling and joyful PJ Pals Hanukkah party.

Friday, January 20, 1-2:30 pm
Help your community with a special guest, story and craft. Bring a canned good and make a unique bag you can use to deliver your food donation to the Northampton Survival Center. Then stay after for a special Kabbalat Shabbat with the LGA Kindergarten teachers and students.

Friday, February 10, 1-2 pm
"Beetles" Tu B'Shevat with Felicia Sloin
Come for a rockin' good time with Felicia and your PJ Pals buddies. Get ready for a special musical presentation!

Held at the Lander-Grinspoon Academy,
257 Prospect St., Northampton, MA

Hevrei Mitzvot

Men's Club

The next meeting of the Men's Club, the Hevrei Mitzvot, will be

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 4
AT 9:45 AM AT LGA**

The usual superb ethnic breakfast will be served, and scintillating conversation will be expected.

New honorable menschen welcome.

For further details contact Ken Schoen at [413 665 0066](tel:4136650066)



Valley Jewish Seniors

The next meeting of Valley Jewish Seniors will be

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21
AT 12:30 PM AT THE CBI LIBRARY**

A wonderful lunch will be prepared by Diana Todrin and Esta Busi along with their marvelous associates.

Our topics will be connected to rededication. Dreidels will be supplied and Hanukkah gelt will be distributed. (Excessive gambling will be discouraged.) Also kindly bring a Hanukkah song to share.

Bring a friend.
Look forward to seeing you.

If you need a ride, please call the CBI Office at (413) 584-3593.



Sisterhood Book Club

DECEMBER MEETING

Book: *Half Broke Horses* by Jeannette Walls

Date: Monday, Dec. 19, 7:30pm

Location: Home of Shirley Cohen

11 Acrebrook Drive, Florence

(413) 584-3054

JANUARY MEETING

Book: *All Other Nights* by Dara Horn;

Date: Monday, January 23, 7:30 pm

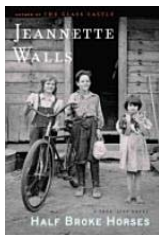
All CBI women are welcome to join us for one meeting or many. Please call if you need directions or a ride.

UPCOMING TITLES:

February 27: *Birds without Wings*

By Louis de Bernieres

March



Sisterhood Hanukkah Sale

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 & 18
9:00 AM TO NOON**

Time to get ready for Hannukah. Don't miss the Sisterhood Judaica Shop Hannukah Sale.

We'll have a wide assortment of Menorahs, dreidels, Hanukkah gelt, gifts, toys, beautiful jewelry from Israel, ritual items and more.

As always there will be lots of bargains. We welcome special orders.

Remember, the Judaica Shop is the Sisterhood's major fundraising activity.



CALENDAR



About our monthly Shabbat Services

TOT SHABBAT

Come join us for a lively Saturday morning program celebrating the beautiful aspects of Shabbat through songs, stories, dance and creative movement. (For 3 to 5 year olds and their families)

THIS MONTH HELD ON: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 11:00 am
NEXT MONTH: JANUARY 21

SHABBAT FAMILY MINYAN

A creative interactive service featuring prayers, songs and stories. (For school-aged children, their parents and the community)

THIS MONTH HELD ON: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 11:00 am—Noon
NEXT MONTH: JANUARY 7

SHABBAT SING

A celebration of Shabbat through song. All are welcome to join in singing a wide array of Jewish songs, from child-friendly melodies to complicated rounds. (For children and adults)

THIS MONTH HELD ON: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 11:00 am—Noon
NEXT MONTH: JANUARY 14

LIMUD MINYAN

Please join us for this time of prayer and learning designed to gain a deeper knowledge of and appreciation for the Shabbat morning service. The Limud Minyan is designed for people of all levels, and particularly for those just gaining familiarity with Jewish prayer. Led by Rabbi Bruce Bromberg Seltzer

THIS MONTH HELD ON: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 9:30-11:00 am

A CONVERSATION WITH RABBI LANDER ABOUT HIS LIFE WORK.

Sunday, December 11, 2011 at 1:30 pm
@ JCA (742 Main Street, Amherst, MA)

Rabbi Yechiael Lander is the Emeritus Rabbi of Smith College and Amherst College Hillel, and of the Jewish Community of Amherst. His most recent achievement is as co-founder of the Lander-Grinspoon Academy. Rabbi Lander has just published an engaging and moving memoir of his rich and multi-faceted life.

Prior to the event, a luncheon will be served at 12:30 pm. Cost is \$10:00 a person, of which \$5.00 will be a contribution to the Lander-Grinspoon Academy. Please RSVP to Yaffa Gunner, ybg@comcast.net, by December 5th if you plan on attending the luncheon.

HADASSAH NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH GIFT WRAPPING TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE HADASSAH MEDICAL ORGANIZATION

We are Gift Wrapping at the Hampshire Mall
From Sunday, Dec.18 to Friday, Dec.23

If you can give us a few hours of your time,
please call Nomi Peleg 256-0106
or Barbara Goldstein 549-0555

You'll have a lot of fun and be working for a very good cause.

Around the Valley

Team CBI & the 5th Annual Ride to Provide

Thank you so much for making the 5th annual Ride to Provide the most successful ever. Before this year, the largest Ride had 109 registered riders and raised \$42,000. This year, with 197 registered riders, we raised over \$55,000 — a new record. These funds will enable our students to participate in UMass Hillel's extraordinary community service programs and support our environmentally friendly projects. The proceeds will also benefit Jewish organizations throughout the Pioneer Valley.



We are grateful to you for organizing Team CBI. Your participation helped to make the Ride a feel good event for people of all ages. As one Rider said, "People ask how to bring the Jewish communities in the Valley together. This is how!"



We are pleased to be giving a check of \$802.00 to CBI. This represents CBI's share of the total raised by Team CBI, including all registration fees and gifts in honor of the riders and/or the team. We will be pleased to send a list of each donation upon request. If we receive any additional qualifying contributions, we will send a supplemental check before the end of the calendar year.

Thank you again for participating in this year's Ride. We look forward to having Team CBI join us again next year.



Hanukkah & Christmas: Navigating the Holiday Season

A Parenting Conversation Featuring
Author Anita Diamant & Rabbi Devorah Jacobson

Sunday, December 4, 2011
3:30 pm at CBI



The arrival of Hanukkah and Christmas can be an exciting and stressful time in a family's life. Parents (and in-laws) may have different memories, experiences and expectations about what these holidays mean for them. This event is an opportunity to reflect about what is important to you, and what values you want to pass along to your children.

Anita Diamant is the acclaimed author of 11 books, including the bestseller and award-winning novel, *The Red Tent*. She has written six books on contemporary Jewish life, including *How to Raise a Jewish Child* and *Living a Jewish Life*. Her most recent novel is *Day After Night*. Rabbi Devorah Jacobson is the Director of Pastoral Care at Jewish Geriatric Services.

Refreshments will be served.
Babysitting will be provided.

Cost: FREE
Pre-registration is required by December 1.

Contact Debbie Peskin at the Federation at (413) 737-4313 x121 or dpeskin@jewishwesternmass.org to register or for more information.

The event is sponsored by: The Upper Valley Synagogue Collaborative, a program of Congregation Ahavas Achim, Congregation Beit Ahavah, Congregation B'nai Israel, Congregation Rodphey Shalom, Congregation Sons of Zion, Jewish Community of Amherst, Temple Israel, and the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts with a grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Minutes

Minutes of the October 27, 2011 CBI Board Meeting

The Meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm. Present were Ellen Kaufman (President), Lauren Weinsier, Gillian Kendall, Simona Pozzetto, Kevin Hale, Lois Dubin, Dorothy Nemetz, Peggy Besht, Esther Bean, Jane Trigere, Amy Wolpin, David Cohen, Jim Sagalyn, Neil Kudler and Lou Davis. Guests: Rabbi Justin David; Executive Director Ben Cuperman; Ron Ackerman and Bill Jolly for the Cemetery Committee.

Rabbi's d'var Torah: Rabbi Justin David commended all those contributed time and energy to the High Holy Days. There was applause for Ron Ackerman's work as Gabbai. Rabbi David then mentioned that no interaction is over until the thank you note is written, and that we should be conscious of people who help and send them a note of thanks. He added "May this be a year of helpfulness."

Ellen Kaufman acknowledged Rabbi David's energy and skillful leadership through the marathon of the holidays, and the Board members agreed with resounding applause.

The September minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

Ben Cuperman, Executive Director, presented a document (attached and available in the CBI office) regarding financial information for the FOC and the Board.

He notes that we have eight new memberships to approve:

Evie Glickman; Zita Lazzarini; Zamir and Leah Nestelbaum; Roberta Pato; Mallory Probert; Joel and Virginia Schulman; Carl Sesar; Julie Steiner. Dorothy Nemetz moved to accept these new members. The motion was seconded. The vote was in favor of acceptance (unanimous).

Our numbers are exactly 370 household members.

Note: Because of corrected membership numbers, projected dues are \$25,000 less than the amount we put in the budget. This means that what we receive in dues will be less than what we budgeted for.

OLD BUSINESS

Ellen Kaufman announced that the Board Retreat would be moved to November. A list of date was circulated to ascertain Board members' availability on three Sundays in November.

Ellen Kaufman gave an update on the Upper Valley Synagogue Collaborative-Federation initiative. We had voted to give \$1,000 to the initiative assuming that the Upper Valley model would follow that of the Lower Valley. The Upper Valley, however, will host events (rather structuring dues so as to attract new members). For example, the Havdallah Hootinanny will take place on November 12. Anita Diamant will be speaking on **December 4, 3:30pm at CBI.** Ellen Kaufman suggested we donate \$750 dollars. Gillian Kendall moved that we donate \$750 to the Upper Valley Synagogue Collaborative-Federation. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Cemetery Committee Report

This report was moved up from New Business for the sake of convenience.

The cemetery committee presented two three page documents, one for the Jewish cemetery and one for the Interfaith cemetery (copies available in the CBI office) and moved that the Board approve these revised Rules, with a Fee and Cost Schedule, for the Jewish Cemetery and the Interfaith Cemetery. The Cemetery Committee unanimously recommended Board approval.

Ron Ackerman noted that our responsibility is to our synagogue and future generations. Ellen Kaufman asked if there were significant changes between the old rules and the new rules. Bill Jolly replied that the committee wanted to be sure that the language was inclusive (of commitment ceremonies, for example). After discussion, Gillian Kendall called the question. The motion to accept the document passed with two nays and two abstentions. Ron Ackerman noted that anyone with questions should call Bill Jolly, Edward Allen or him. A number of members of the cemetery committee have put together a guide on mourning customs. There will be a copy on the website.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board thanked Lou Davis for his presentation of the survey at the Community Meeting. Minutes of the Community Meeting will be posted on the website. Note: we are creating an email address for people to use if they have questions or

Minutes

message that we're all in this together.

There was much discussion of the procedure for retiring members. Ellen Kaufman explained that three letters regarding members in arrears go out to those members – each increasingly firm. The last letter states that the member needs to respond within a month. Jim Sagalyn noted that “in arrears” meant in arrears for a year or more. Rabbi Justin David and Ellen Kaufman suggested a phone call before retiring a membership might be in order to humanize the process. A personal call from the lay leadership, it was suggested, would be most effective.

Discussion ensued.

Ellen Kaufman took a sense of the Board: are the people at this table willing to make phone calls to those whose memberships were about to be retired? The answer was a unanimous “yes.” A list of members due to be retired was passed around the table, and Board members chose families to call. They are due to report back to the Board at the November meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Amy Wolpin gave the Education Committee's report:

Amy Wolpin first noted that Amy Wolpin and Alan Singer are the Co-Chairs of the Education Committee. They request that other committees communicate directly with both Co-Chairs concerning any Education Committee matter. After giving the CBI Board a brief history of the Education Committee, Amy Wolpin pointed out that the Education Committee in collaboration with the Education Director now oversees the religious school, holiday and Shabbat programs, family education, the teen program, and childcare during services. Since we currently have an interim Educational Director, Amy and Alan have assigned themselves specific duties (see attached – available in the CBI office).

A brief summary: The religious school started one week late due to the sanctuary renovations. There are currently 54 children enrolled. The first parent meeting was well attended and there are room parents for each class. The High Holiday programs went well, but next year we will schedule parents and committee members for hall supervision of children. The Education Committee asks that the Board support standards for adults in the hall during services. Drop-in childcare during Shabbat services began in October. The first family education event funded by the Grinspoon grant was the Sukkot lunch and garden program. Kitchen trainings are being provided for parents who prepare snacks and meals. The Education Committee and FOC will look into the use of the Education Fund. A search committee is being formed to hire a permanent Education Director.

Ellen Kaufman, on behalf of the Board, thanked Amy Wolpin for the incredible amount of work and support she has provided for CBI.

Dorothy Nemetz reported on the Sanctuary renovation. To date, \$61,015 has been pledged. \$54,915 has been received. The cost of the renovation was a little higher because of the LAD (little asbestos debacle – the Secretary's term).

Dorothy Nemetz also noted that the Jewish Legacy Program has concluded. Those who pledged funds received a nifty paperweight-like thing. Any further legacy gifts can go to CBI. Please put CBI in your will. We received \$25,000 from the Jewish Legacy Program.

Peggy Besht, on behalf of the Personnel Committee, read a document prepared by Larry Hott: “The Personnel Committee met with Rabbi David to discuss his evaluation and mutual assessment schedule. The Committee plans to finish the work by the end of January 2012. We will be talking with members of the CBI community using questions suggested by the Rabbinical Assembly. We also met with Rabbi Selch to talk about how her work has been going and thoughts she has about the work of the Education Committee and the programs of the religious school.”

The next Board meeting will be Thursday, November 17. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gillian Murray Kendall

Donations

ANNUAL FUND

Carol and Marc Silver

Thank you for sharing the High Holidays with L'shana Luna. From Caryl Isenberg

EDUCATION FUND

Paula Parsky

ENDOWMENT FUND

To Bob Cohen, in memory of Ruth Cohen. From Nancy & Rick Prouser

In honor of my aliyah on Simchat Torah. From Adele Steinberg

To Carolyn Dashef & Family, in memory of your dear mother Bertha Nast, our thoughts are with you. From Doris & David Cohen

To Stephen Dashef, Mazal Tov on your birthday. May you continue to enjoy many years. From David & Doris Cohen

To Adele Steinberg, Congratulations on your birthday. We wish you many more. From Doris and David Cohen

To Carolyn Dashef & Family, With sympathy on the loss of your mother, grandmother and great grandmother. From Jane & Peter Stein

To the Cohen Family, in memory of Ruth Cohen, an inspiring teacher. From Ricki Kantrowitz & Alex Cohen

To Carolyn Dashef, in memory of your mother. From Ricki Kantrowitz & Alex Cohen

GARDEN FUND

Frances Hack & Robert Chabot
Larry Hott & Diane Garey
The CBI Staff

To Scott Barton, in honor of your birthday. From Gerta & Warren Klein

KURIAN KIDDUSH FUND

Roslyn Torrey
Barbara Diamond Golden
Shelley Steuer

In memory of Lory Wallfisch. From Ricki Kantrowitz & Alex Cohen

To Amy & Scott Siege, in honor of Claire & Benjamin's Bat and Bar Mitzvah's. From Judy & Richard Wyman

To Ricky & Hanneli Greenwald, Mazal Tov on Yariv's arrival. From Ben & Bianca Cuperman

To Jim Sagalyn & Jane Herzenberg, Mazal Tov on the marriage of your son, Jesse. From Ben & Bianca Cuperman

To Louis & Hilda Greenbaum, Mazal Tov on your 50th wedding anniversary. Love from your family, Rachel, Bob and Adam Vigderman, and Aaron & Daniel Valitt

KOL NIDRE APPEAL

Edith Allen
Barbara Black
Dianne Sagner & Julius Menn
Paula Lustleader
Bill & Carol Jolly
Betsy Eisendrath
Marcia Burick
Jason Goldstein
Judy Levin & Laura Flaragan
Bob Konig & Debora Sperling
Rosemary McNaughton & Gary Felder
Corrie Trattner
Alvin & Shirley Cohen
Cathy & Joseph Cohen
Debbie Charren & Tim Diehl
Tilli Friedrich
Ellen Kaufman
Henia Lewin
Rose Cohen
Henry & Adele Oppenheim
Vivian Bresnitz
Dave Gottsegen
Jan Hackman
Alan Berkenwald & Joan Schaffer

Carol & Brad Katz
Helen Ratner
Marvin & Edythe Ellin
Anita Gallers
Larry Hott & Diane Garey
Jeff & Judy Stoloff
Jendi Reiter
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Allen
Jeff Kahn
Jane Goldfield
Roslyn Nitkin
Robert Shycon & Linda Dell
Barbara Black
Eleanor Rothman
Ron Ackerman & Cleo Gorman

Thank you to the CBI community for your very warm welcome to my daughter Lisa on the High Holidays. Special thanks to Rabbi David and Ron Ackerman. From Adrienne Flanders & Gerald Friedman

In honor of my daughter Adrienne Levine's "Cohen's" first aliyah on Yom Kippur. From Edward & Barbara Levine

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Irving and Irene Rothberg
Steven & Susan Kates
Robert Goodman & Stephanie Levin

To Rabbi Justin David, in appreciation of your help with the unveiling of my husband's headstone in early August. From Eleanor Rothman

To Rabbi Justin David, in appreciation of your wisdom and leadership of our community. From Lisa & Scott Chasan-Taber

In honor of our baby naming. From Harry & Elizabeth Rozyn

TZEDAKAH FUND

In loving memory of Lillian B. Miller. From Rebecca Miller

In loving memory of Ruth Krosnow. From Jeff & Judy Stoloff

Yahrzeit (MEMORIAL) PLAQUE

To commemorate my husband Emanuel Rubin's yahrzeit on 5 Tishre. From Serene Rubin

In loving memory of Louis Budgar. From Esther Budgar

SANCTUARY RENOVATION DONATIONS

Adele Steinberg
Norbert Goldfield
Ricki Kantrowitz
Alan Kantrowitz
Peggy Besht
Keith & Linda Minoff

G'MILUT CHASADIM~ACTS OF LOVINGKINDNESS

COT SHELTER DINNER ON CHRISTMAS DAY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2011

This month CBI will host the Cot Shelter Dinner on Christmas Day

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to cook part of a meal for 25 guests, serve the dinner, visit with the guests and clean up.

WHEN: Sunday, December 25th

WHERE: The Cot Shelter, 40 Center Street in Northampton

TIME: 5:45-7:15 pm

FOOD NEEDED FOR EACH MEAL: Cheese & Crackers • Juice (2 gal.) • Vegetable dishes (2) • Salad • Fruit • Whole Wheat Bread • Milk (1 gal.) • Main Dish of chicken or meat • Potatoes • & Dessert

To volunteer your time or a food donation please contact Peggy Besht at pjbhepburn@comcast.net or Nanci in the CBI Front Office at 413 584-3593 or bnai.israel@verizon.net

December Yahrzeits

December 1 / Kislev 5

Irving Blatt
Simon Olim*
Anna Pomerantz*
Isaac Smargonsky*

December 3 / Kislev 7

Myer Aaron Michelman*
Ellinor Norden
Celia Sticker

December 4 / Kislev 8

Simon Burick

December 5 / Kislev 9

Rose Fagerson*

December 6 / Kislev 10

Albert Winkler*

December 7 / Kislev 11

Jerome Lenard Karpas

December 8 / Kislev 12

Shene August*
Cornelis de Vries

December 9 / Kislev 13

Boris Jolles

December 10 / Kislev 14

Robert Michael Elinsky*
Max Lipshires*
Melvin Prouser

December 11 / Kislev 15

Lorraine Rosenfeld

December 12 / Kislev 16

Joseph Greenberg*
Rose Prince
Florence Udes

December 13 / Kislev 17

Mindel August*
Charles Fiddler
Regina Katz*
Paul J. Robin*
Harris Tallan

December 15 / Kislev 19

Dennis Hudson
Tsippora Kamel

December 16 / Kislev 20

Chaya Sarah Golub*
Freidel Yevlov*

December 17 / Kislev 21

Sadye Steinberg
Robert Vogel*
Dorothy Wineman

December 18 / Kislev 22

Ida Greece
Esther Weiss

December 19 / Kislev 23

Bessie Gelfman*
Abraham Kahane*
Tara Michelle Katzner

December 20 / Kislev 24

Bertram Gerstein*
Marilyn Graubart*
Esther Lewin

December 21 / Kislev 25

Joseph Feldman*

December 22 / Kislev 26

Charlotte Ackerman

December 23 / Kislev 27

Leonard I Alberts*
Jeannette Davis
Kathryn Schuler

December 24 / Kislev 28

Tille Goldman*
Elizabeth Gorman Prunty
David Kupfer
Jacob Plotkin*

December 25 / Kislev 29

Dorothy August *
Samuel B. August *
Claude Emmerich
Nathaniel Schwartz
Leonard Sprung*
Frieda (Golding) Werner

December 26 / Kislev 30

Hyman Goldman*
Elizabeth Michelman*
Stanley Price

December 27 / Tevet 1

Dora Michelman*

December 28 / Tevet 2

George Tepper
Helen Ziff*

December 29 / Tevet 3

Arthur Bloomberg*
Noel Burke
Etta Sauter Cohen*
Carla Eckstein*
David Neugeboren
Sol Rosenfeld

December 30 / Tevet 4


Dora Miriam Cohen*

December 31 / Tevet 5

Faye Bender*
Sheila Maisey*
James Marmor
Abe Rubin

* Denotes plaque on Yahrzeit Board

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bnai.israel@verizon.net



*Domestic
 Violence
 It Hurts!*

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing physical, emotional, or other forms of abuse, please contact:

Safe Passage 1-888-345-5282 (24-hr hotline)
 Or for Jewish Support:

Shalom Taskforce 1-888-883-2323 (crisis)
 Jewish Safety Net 1-413-582-6790
 (local resources, referrals, & advocacy at Jewish Family Services)

Some signs of partner abuse can involve:

- controlling behavior
- belittling and degrading
- extreme jealousy and possessiveness

CBI Funds

AESTHETICS FUND

Funds will be used to beautify the synagogue. *Please send donations to CBI.*

ANNUAL FUND

Funds will be used for the synagogue's most pressing needs. Enhanced dues are a part of this fund. *Please send donations to CBI.*

BENJAMIN GOLDSMITH FUND

BIKKUR HOLIM FUND

Donations for this fund are used for gifts from the whole congregation for members of the congregation who are fighting illness. *Checks may be made payable to CBI with Bikkur Holim in the memo line.*

CEMETERY FUND

CHEVREI MITZVOT FUND

Funds used towards gemilut hasadim, to honor Bar and Bat Mitzvot, and fund worthy endeavors. *Please send donations to CBI.*

COMMITTEE FOR JEWISH CONNECTION

Fund provides for programming to celebrate and promote the practice of Judaism. *Please send donations to CBI.*

DANIEL & SHIRLEY LEVIN EDUCATION FUND

Money will assist qualified families with Religious School Tuition. *Checks made payable to Levin Education Fund should be mailed to CBI.*

DIVINE FUND

An endowment used to attract and retain outstanding religious school educators for our Religious School. *Please send donations to CBI.*

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Donations will be used to support the work of the CBI Task Force. *Please send contributions to CBI with Domestic Violence in the memo line*

EDUCATION FUND

Donations help support all educational activities and programs for children and adults at CBI. *Please send donations to CBI.*

ENDOWMENT FUND

Minimum Contribution is \$10.00. A \$600 contribution or more is necessary for a plaque to be affixed in the main lobby. Principle stays intact; interest earned is used to defray general operations of the synagogue. *Please send donations to CBI.*

THE ISRAEL FUND

Funds used to support CBI sponsored trips to Israel, Yom Ha'atzmaut events and other activities in celebration of Israel. *Please send donations to CBI.*

KITCHEN FUND

Donations for this fund will be used for purchases and maintenance of CBI's Kosher Kitchen. *Please send donations to CBI.*

LANDSCAPE FUND

Fund used to beautify and maintain synagogue grounds. *Please send donations to CBI.*

LEONARD AND BERNICE ALBERTS PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

\$10.00 minimum contribution. Fund assists qualified families with Preschool tuition. *Please send donations to CBI with Albert's Fund in the memo line.*

LIBRARY FUND

Money in this fund will go towards the purchase of CBI library books. *Please send donations to CBI.*

PRESCHOOL EDUCATION FUND

Money from this fund will go to the preschool for equipment and teaching materials. *Make checks payable to CBI with Preschool Fund in the memo line.*

PULPIT FUND

Funds used to procure necessary items that are not covered by the operating budget. These funds will be used to enhance our services. *Please send donations to CBI.*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND *Please send donations to CBI.*

SANDRA GOLDSMITH ENDOWMENT FUND

Donations are used to endow activities for Tikkun Olam. *Please send donations to CBI.*

SAM & MILDRED WOLFE BAR/BAT MITZVAH FUND

All students studying for Bar/Bat Mitzvah require a private tutor. This fund offsets tutoring costs for families. We encourage all families, friends, and relatives to contribute. *Minimum contribution is \$10.00. Make checks payable to CBI with Wolfe Fund in the memo line.*

SHABBAT CHILD CARE FUND

Money from this fund will go towards providing quality child care to all who need it (at no charge) during Shabbat services. *Please send donations to CBI.*

SISTERHOOD ALL OCCASION FUND

Minimum contribution is \$5.00. Money is used for specific synagogue needs voted upon by the Sisterhood membership. Mail checks made payable to CBI Sisterhood to Harriet Weinroth, 100 Bassett Brook Dr. Apt 102 Easthampton, MA 01027 (527-

3613). A card will be mailed for any occasion.

SUE KURIAN KIDDUSH FUND

Donations will be used to enhance our Shabbat services with festive Kiddushes. *Please send donations to CBI.*

TIKKUN OLAM FUND

Funds are used to benefit programs that help people in need, in the Northampton - Amherst area, in Israel, and occasionally when catastrophes strike in other parts of the world. *Please send donations to CBI.*

TORAH CHAI FUND

Donations to this fund assist the restoration and repair of Congregation B'nai Israel's existing Torah scrolls, and have made possible the purchase of a new Torah. *Please send donations to CBI.*

TZEDAKAH FUND

Fund for engaging in acts of tzedakah (charity and generosity) for the benefit of CBI members. *Please send donations to CBI*

VALLEY JEWISH SENIORS

Fund to help support seniors' activities through CBI. *Please send donations to CBI.*

WOMEN'S FUND

The CBI Women's Fund is for the purpose of helping CBI Women Members who are in dire financial need. To make a donation to the CBI Women's Fund, make your check out to B'nai Israel Sisterhood and indicate that it is for the Women's Fund. Mail the check to Harriet Weinroth, 100 Bassett Brook Dr. Apt 102 Easthampton, MA 01027 (527-3613). *Minimum donation of \$5.00.*

YOUTH FUND

Donations will be used to help fund activities for our youth programs. *Please send donations to CBI.*

YAHREZIT (MEMORIAL) PLAQUE

\$200 donation for each name. *Please make checks payable to CBI Cemetery Fund and mail to CBI.*

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Congregation B'nai Israel

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