

NEWS & VIEWS

חדשנות והשകפות

DECEMBER 2019

פסלו - טבת תש"פ

FAIR LAWN JEWISH CENTER / CONG. BNAI ISRAEL
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Happy Hanukkah



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RELIGIOUS SERVICES

DAILY

SUNDAY	9:00 AM & 7:45 PM
MONDAY & THURSDAY	7:45 AM & 7:45PM
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY	8:00 AM & 7:45 PM

SHABBAT

FRIDAY EVENING	6:30 PM
SHABBAT	9:30 AM
SHABBAT MINCHA	AFTER MORNING SERVICE & KIDDUSH

THERE IS NO EVENING MAARIV SERVICE ON SHABBAT

CANDLELIGHTING

DEC. 6	4:10 PM
DEC. 13	4:10 PM
DEC. 20	4:12 PM
DEC. 27	4:16 PM



TABLE OF CONTENTS

ADULT EDUCATION COMM.	11	LAST SANHEDRIN	16
BABYSITTING	20	LATKES	7
BIBLE IN SONG	9	MENORAH BLESSINGS	8
BOOK OF THE LUNCH	9	MEN'S PROGRESS CLUB	13
CANDLE LIGHTING	2	MONTH - KISLEV	10
CHANUKAH	6	NOSH & KNOWLEDGE	27
DEATHS	2	PRESIDENTIAL PONDERING	4
DONATIONS	24	RABBINIC REFLECTIONS	3
DREIDEL	27	RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	21
EMERGENCY SUPPLIES PKGS.	14	SCRIP	26
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	5	SISTERHOOD	12
FAMILY MATTERS	11	SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE	15
FLIPPER/KADIMA PARTY	23	SPELLING OF HANUKKAH	27
GARFINKLE DVAR TORAH	17	SYN. SKILLS LEARNING INST.	27
HANUKKAH STORYTIME	20	UNDERSTANDING THE SIDDUR	9
		VETERANS' DAY COMMEMOR.	16

COMING UP IN DECEMBER

2	BOOK OF THE LUNCH 12:00 - 2:30 PM
3	NOSH & KNOWLEDGE 11:30AM - 12:30PM
4	THE BIBLE IN SONG 8:00 - 9:00PM
8	UNDERSTANDING THE SIDDUR 8:45 - 9:45AM
8	MPC - DAVID GOTLIB - BAGEL BREAKFAST 9:30 AM
9	SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING
10	NOSH & KNOWLEDGE 11:30AM - 12:30PM
11	THE BIBLE IN SONG 8:00 - 9:00PM
12	THE LAST SANHEDRIN - CHARLIE COHEN - 8:15PM
14	JUNIOR CONGREGATION
15	HAGIGAT HANUKKAH 10:00AM
15	HANUKKAH STORYTIME (OFF SITE) 2:00PM
15	FLIPPER-KADIMAH HANUKKAH PARTY 1:00-3:00PM
16	BEN NELSON BOOK GROUP 10:00AM
17	NOSH & KNOWLEDGE 11:30AM - 12:30PM
18	BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING 8:00PM
19	SISTERHOOD VODKA & LATKES (OFF SITE)
21	WINTER BEGINS
22	FIRST HANUKKAH CANDLE
23 - 30	HANUKKAH
22 - JAN. 1	RELIGIOUS SCHOOL WINTER BREAK
24	NOSH & KNOWLEDGE 11:30AM - 12:30PM
27	SAVE THE DATE! FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES 8:00PM (PARAMUS JEWISH CENTER) REGIONAL ONEG TO FOLLOW
31	NOSH & KNOWLEDGE 11:30AM - 12:30PM

נַחַם, נַחַם עַמִּי

WE NOTE WITH SORROW THE PASSING OF

MADELINE ALPER, MOTHER OF STUART ALPER

MAY THE LORD CONSOLE AND SUSTAIN YOU,
TOGETHER WITH ALL THE MOURNERS FOR ZION AND JERUSALEM.



RABBINIC REFLECTIONS

Rabbi Dina Shargel

The daily minyan: a matter of life and death?

"I was utterly exhausted, with no energy to get up. My arms and legs were no longer in my control, and my body felt as if it were no longer my own. Two or three times, I made an effort to get up but could not." So begins a haunting short story called *Al Ha-torah* by the Nobel-Prize-winning Israeli writer, S. Y. Agnon. As the story unfolds, the narrator-hero tells the reader that he has been ill for months, and unable to go to the synagogue next door. From his sick-bed he hears the voices of the worshippers, and he longs to be called up for an aliyah. Suddenly, the narrator realizes that he has actually just heard his name, for the gabbai is asking after him. One of the worshippers replies, "That man is dead."

The narrator springs into action. "I stood up and shouted from my bed, 'I am alive! I am alive! Here I come – right away!'" Throwing on an overcoat he hastens to the synagogue, and is immediately called to the Torah. He stands before the open scroll and wonders whether he is "a living man in a *minyan* of the dead" – a symbol of imminent death – or "a living man in a *minyan* of the living, who people say is dead," a symbol that he leaves to the reader's imagination. He kisses the scroll and recites the blessings for the aliyah. Then he adds *bir-kat ha-gomei*, the blessing for those who have escaped grave danger, and the congregation gives the appropriate liturgical response for his well being.

Like many of Agnon's works, *Al Ha-torah* is ambiguous and surreal, with a variety of possible interpretations. For me, the story demonstrates the healing power of worship, the Torah and the Jewish community. At the beginning, the narrator languishes in bed at the brink of death, utterly alone. By the end, he stands erect at the Torah, which our liturgy describes as "a tree of life to those who hold fast to it," and he declares: *v'hayyei olam nata b'tokheinu* – "who has planted within us life eternal." *Birkat ha-gomei* enables the narrator to reclaim his rightful place among the other worshippers. The Fair Lawn Jewish Center/Congregation B'nai Israel offers our community the opportunity for worship, each and every day of the

year. All Jewish men and women over the age of thirteen are counted. Three days a week the Torah is read. Our synagogue's daily minyan is a gift that should not be taken for granted. It depends utterly on the community for its existence. When people suffer the loss of family members, or observe a *yahrzeit*, they often come to our minyan to say kaddish. The kaddish may be recited only in a quorum of ten adult worshippers. Fortunately, our synagogue has a pool of dedicated people who attend our daily services on a regular basis. But no one human being can be expected to attend services each day of the year. It is a struggle to get ten Jewish adults to "make a minyan."

As many of you know, for the past year or two we have been pooling our resources with Temple Beth Sholom, meeting once a day at FLJC, and once a day at TBS. At TBS, women are not counted, and may not participate ritually. We would prefer to be able to return to meeting twice a day at our synagogue. In order to do so, we need your help. If we could get a core group of people committing to come once a month, that would help a great deal.

In short, we very much need you at our daily services. "Lapsed regulars" are warmly invited to join us again. Newcomers – take up the challenge and make the commitment to come just once! By now you should have received a sign-up form to fill out, asking you to make any commitment you can to supporting our minyan.

If you would like the minyan to be there for you when you need to recite kaddish, or wish to be called to the Torah, consider that your attendance enables the minyan to be there for others as well. *Al Ha-Torah* calls attention to the life-affirming powers of public worship, the Torah and Jewish communal support. Those resources are available at our synagogue, opportunities for you to give and to receive.



PRESIDENTIAL PONDERING

Leonard Kaufmann

Be a candle!

The menorah is one of the most recognizable of Jewish symbols and religious items. I'm guessing, but I would suppose that more families have a menorah than have any other single Jewish object. Yet, it really is the candles that make the menorah useful at all. Without the candles, the menorah is just something nice to look at. If unused, the menorah doesn't provide light or inspiration.

Each year, on the first night of Hanukkah, we put that first candle, that first shamash, into the menorah. When the candle is lit, we all experience a special feeling. For some, it is the joy of seeing the wonder in your children's eyes. For others, we wax nostalgic, remembering the days of our youth. Or perhaps we reflect on the miracle that Hanukkah represents, and feel grateful for the miracles in our own lives.

Each night, we light another candle. Each night the joy, the wonder, increase, until finally, when all the candles are in the menorah, and all are lit, the menorah shines its brightest. It is at its most useful, its most meaningful, its most inspirational.

Our synagogue is like our menorah, and we are its candles. Like the menorah, the synagogue is just something to look at if unused. Yet when that first person gets involved, the synagogue begins to shine its light. Its light is seen by all of us. And, as more people become involved, the light, the inspiration increase. Compare how lively the service is when there is a large crowd, as opposed to a smaller one. Think about how good you feel when you walk into the building and find it filled with the sound of children, as opposed to empty, quiet halls.

Each of us has a special light to bring to the Fair Lawn Jewish Center/Congregation Bnai

Israel. Maybe you want to help plan a program. Maybe you want to serve on a committee. Or go to a class. Or come to a service.

Whatever it is, I urge you to bring your own light to our schul.

You can make a difference, and make our schul shine ever brighter.

Be a candle!

10

10: Such a simple number . . .
But such an important number!

It takes **10** to make a minyan.

Every morning and every evening.

But to do so, we need **10**.

Men, women,
kids above bar/bas mitzvah age.
We need every one of you
to help us keep alive
our long tradition of the daily minyan.

Please come . . .

Be a perfect **10**!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Abe Adler



Forward Motion

During December we will read the Parashah of Vayetzei, in which Jacob, on his way to Laban, falls asleep and dreams of a ladder that stretches up from earth to heaven. There are angels of God ascending and descending the ladder. This imagery is very appropriate for the Jewish approach to conducting our lives. Let me explain with a business example.

A new, hot business will attract many customers with its fresh model. The interesting part of the story is whether a new business will continue to innovate for long term success, or whether competition (or technology) will catch up and even surpass it. There is always competition and technology change. The refrain often heard is that the only constant in business is change.

Back to the ladder. The Jewish approach to life is that we stay in motion, preferably always moving upwards and improving ourselves by continuously perfecting our prayers, learning, and charitable deeds. God doesn't want us to be stationary and content. God wants us to keep competing with ourselves, and always trying to do better.

I am so proud of the many people within our Center who work on programming, membership, publicity, fundraising, Religious School operations, finance, house, and the multitude of tasks needed to make our beloved institution a success. Kudos to all of the FLJC committees! If you are not already engaged, and need help to get involved, please check out our website at FLJC.COM to find out about upcoming events, and to see how to contact the various committee heads. If you have a new idea for an event or a committee, reach out to the leadership, or contact me at abe@fljc.com.

Be reminded - Continued success requires continuous innovation, and always trying new ideas!

I attended SynaCon this past Sunday. If you have never heard of SynaCon, it is a Federation-run event for local Synagogues throughout Northern New Jersey, where relevant issues of the day are discussed, and numerous ideas are shared to help synagogues continue to succeed in their delivery of services to their communities. The event was full of useful ideas.

The loudest message I heard was about knowing our customers, or, in our case, the people in Fair Lawn and its surrounding areas. The world today is complex, and each family has unique demands, constraints and aspirations. We need to understand what needs are not being addressed, and further expand the FLJC offerings to meet these needs. More to come about this!

Lastly, it's important to listen to our own members. We must be open to your opinions and input, and we must try to be responsive to your feedback. During the coming months you will receive invitations to parlor meetings, one-on-one meetings (either face-to-face or by phone), and emailed surveys. Please be generous with your time and share your opinions with us so we can better serve you. If you have not responded to the recent High Holiday survey, please check for it in your email. If you did not get it, please call me in the office.

Together let's move onward and upward!

Abe

HANUKKAH

חנוכה

According to tradition, Hanukkah (dedication) was founded by Judah Macabee, his brothers and their followers.

In the days of the Second Temple, Greece was a world power. There were aspects of Hellenistic culture that the Jews found attractive, and many readily assimilated into the Greek way of life. The Maccabees led a rebellion and King Antiochus then began a campaign of persecution against the Jews. He outlawed basic Jewish practices and defiled the Jerusalem Temple. The Book of Maccabees states that, after defeating Lysias, Judah Maccabee entered Jerusalem and purified the Temple. The altar that had been defiled was demolished, and a new one built. Judah then made new holy vessels, including a Menorah, a table and curtains, and he set 25 Kislev 3586 as the date for the rededication of the Temple and its new altar (*hanukkat ha-mizbe'ah*). The day coincided with the third anniversary of Antiochus Epiphanes' edicts that idolatrous sacrifices be offered in the Temple. The rededicated altar was consecrated with the renewal of the daily sacrificial service accompanied by song, the playing of musical instruments, and the chanting of Hallel.

Because Sukkot could not be properly celebrated when the Temple was in idolatrous hands, a second Sukkot was held during the rededication of the Temple, with the taking of the lulav. But before long, the custom of taking the lulav during Hanukkah was abolished. The celebrations lasted for eight days, and Judah decreed that they be designated as days of rejoicing for future generations. What had been a Temple festival evolved into a popular family celebration.

The first mention of the kindling of lights is in a *Baraita* (a part of the Talmud compiled between the times of the Mishnah and the *Gemara*). The *Baraita* states that, on entering the Temple, the Hasmoneans found that the Greeks had defiled all the oil except for

one cruse, which contained enough oil to keep the Menorah burning for only one day. Miraculously, the cruse of oil lasted for eight days. But such a miracle would hardly have gone unremarked in contemporaneous texts, and neither First nor Second Maccabees mentions the kindling of lights. By the Middle Ages, the authenticity of the story of the cruse of oil was questioned.

The Jewish/Roman historian Josephus does not use the name Hanukkah in his works, suggesting that it was not in common use in his day. Certainly it is the term used in later Rabbinic literature.

According to *Beit Shammai*, eight lights should be kindled on the first day, and the number decreased each day. *Beit Hillel*, whose practice we follow, held that one light should be kindled on the first day, and the number progressively increased.

Halakhah (Jewish law) prescribes that the Menorah be lit between sunset and until there is no wayfarer left in the street. It should be placed outside the entrance to the house; if that is not practical, it should be placed in a window.

Two blessings are recited: one on the light, and the other for the miracle. On the first night, *Sheheheyanu* is added. The kindling of the lights is followed by *ha-nerot hallalu*. *Al Ha-nissim* is recited in the *Amidah* and in the Grace After Meals.

Hallel is recited on each of the eight days.

The Torah portion describes the sacrifices brought by the princes at the dedication of the Sanctuary and the kindling of the Menorah.

There are special *Haftaratot* for the Shabbatot of Hanukkah.

Tahanun is not recited and fasting is prohibited. It became the custom to feast on Hanukkah and, based on midrashim which associ-

ate the story of Judith with Hanukkah, cheese is customarily eaten.

Though the story of Judith is not included in our sacred literature, according to a midrash, Judith was a daring and beautiful widow who was upset with her Jewish countrymen for not trusting God to deliver them from their foreign conquerors. She goes to the tent of the enemy general, Holofernes, with whom she ingratiates herself, promising him information on the Israelites. Gaining his trust, she feeds him quantities of cheese and drink, which put him to sleep. As he sleeps in a drunken stupor, she decapitates him, and takes his head back to her countrymen. The Assyrians, having lost their leader, flee.

Latkes are popular among Ashkenazim, and in Israel, doughnuts (sufganiyot) are customary.

In some communities women do not work while the lights burn.

Maoz Tzur Yeshuati (Mighty Rock of My Salvation) is a hymn composed in Germany by a 13th-century poet about whom nothing is known except his name, Mordecai. It is usually sung in the Ashkenazi ritual after the kindling of the lights. Sephardim recite Psalm 30.

The origin of the custom to have a shamash with which the Hanukkah menorah is lit is based on two injunctions: not to kindle one Hanukkah light from another, and not to use the Hanukkah lights for illumination.

In many communities card playing became a custom. Children play with a dreidel or sevivon, and receive gifts of Hanukkah gelt.

Especially in Israel, Hanukkah symbolizes mainly the victory of the few over the many, and the courage of the Jews. An annual torch relay race sets out from Modi'in, where the revolt broke out, and where the Hasmoneans are buried. Huge menorahs are kindled atop public buildings such as the Knesset in Jerusalem.



POTATO LATKES

6 medium-sized potatoes
2 onions
2 eggs
1/4 - 1/2 cup matzo meal
1 1/2 teaspoons salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper

Peel and grate the potatoes into a bowl.
Squeeze out the liquid.

Grate the onions into the potatoes.
Add the eggs, matzo meal, salt and pepper
to make a batter that will drop heavily from a
spoon.

Fry over moderate heat until brown on the
underside. Turn and fry to brown the other side.

Place latkes on a paper-towel-lined plate
to remove extra oil.

Serve with applesauce and/or cinnamon sugar,
or with sour cream.

If not serving immediately, keep warm in a low
oven.

Eat and enjoy!

*Hint: To avoid 'crying' as you grate the onions, grate
them with the potatoes.*

BLESSINGS ON THE KINDLING OF THE HANUKKAH MENORAH

ברוך אתה ד"ה אלהינו מלך העולם. אשר קדשנו במצוותיו וצונו להדליק נר של חנוכה

BaruKh attah Adonai, Elohaynu melech ha-olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvatov,
ve'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.

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

ברוך אתה ד"ה אלהינו מלך העולם. שעשה נסים לאבותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה

Barukh attah Adonai, Elohaynu melech ha-olam, she'asah nissim la-vota'nu
ba'yamim hahem ba-z'man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe,
who performed miracles for our ancestors in those days, at this season.

On the first night only:

ברוך אתה ד"ה אלהינו מלך העולם. שהחינו וקיינו והגינו בזמן הזה

Baruch Atah Adonai, Elohaynu Melech haOlam,
sheh'hecheyanu, v'kiyimanu, ve'higyanu lazman hazeh.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
Who has kept us in alive, and sustained us,
and enabled us to reach this day.

LIGHTING THE MENORAH

The Menorah should be placed where it can easily be seen . . . preferably in a window

Light the Shamash and hold it as you recite the blessings. Sheheheyanu is recited on the first night only. On the first night, after the blessings have been said or sung, one candle is lit at the right side of the Menorah. . .

On each succeeding night, one additional candle is added, to the left of the previous night/s' candles. The candles are lit from left to right, so the candle for the current evening is the first candle lit.

The candles should burn for at least a half hour.

On Friday night the Menorah is lit before the Shabbat candles.

On Saturday night the Menorah is lit after Havdalah.



BOOK OF THE LUNCH

Monday, December 2
Pulka Room @ Noon

Einstein and the Rabbi: Searching for the Soul
by Naomi Levy

Reviewer: Rabbi David Fine

A profoundly affecting exploration of the meaning and purpose of the soul, inspired by a correspondence between Albert Einstein and a grieving rabbi.

Kosher Nosh deli luncheon
Center members \$15 Non-members \$18

Candace Miller

201 796-5717 cjmiller812@gmail.co

Roni Zerowin

ronizero@aol.com

UNDERSTANDING THE SIDDUR

Rabbi Shargel

Sunday, December 8

8:45 AM
Room 206

An exploration of the Shabbat morning service, designed for adults who would like to feel more comfortable in synagogue.

Explore biblical sources and background, build a basic Siddur Hebrew vocabulary and increase your comprehension of the liturgy.

THE BIBLE IN SONG

Rabbi Shargel

Wednesday, December 4
Wednesday, December 11

8:00 PM
Youth Lounge

Explore a wide range of Israeli songs based on biblical characters and events. Music, text study and light refreshments. All Hebrew texts will be translated

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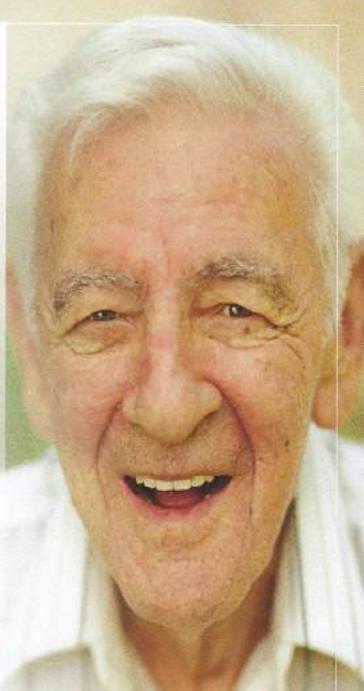
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KISLEV

Kislev is the Babylonian name of the month that, in the Torah, is referred to simply as the Ninth Month. It consists of either 29 or 30 days; this year it is 30 days, having begun on November 29, and ending December 28. Its sign of the Zodiac is Sagittarius.

The first rainbow was seen in Kislev. When the waters of the Flood ceased, God blessed Noah, permitted him to use meat for food, forbade him to shed human blood, made a covenant for life with him, and showed him the rainbow as an eternal covenant between Him and us.

The 1st of Kislev never falls on Shabbat. On 1 Kislev a series of public fasts took place in Judea, in intercession for rain in years of drought.

3 Kislev is the anniversary of a Hasmonean victory over the Greeks.

7 Kislev marks the anniversary of the death of Herod.

21 Kislev is known as "the day of Gerizim," commemorating the decision by Alexander the Great in favor of the Temple of Jerusalem, against the rival Samaritan claim for the Temple on Mount Gerizim.

25 Kislev begins the festival of Chanukah.

From the days of the Hasmoneans, and as long as the Beit Din sanctified the months through the testimony of witnesses, messengers of the Beit Din went to places distant from Jerusalem to announce when the new month had been sanctified, so the dates of the festivals could be known. When the Beit Din sanctified the month of Kislev, messengers were sent from Jerusalem so the people would know when Hanukkah would begin.

Hanukkah begins this year with the lighting of the first candle the evening of Sunday, December 22.

FAMILY MATTERS

B'RUKHIM HA-BAIM (Welcome!)

Our New Members:

Joe Manela

Alexandr Shtukater, Tatyana Lomberg &
David and Daniel Shtukater

Allegra & Jonathan Kipnis

BEST WISHES FOR A REFUAH SH'LEMAH TO

Burnetta Bard
Sylvia Berger
Claudia Caltabiano
Flora Frank
Arie Greenbaum
Rose Lieberman
Neal Lipschitz
Jack Miller
Etta Mont
Esther Oster
Rabbi Ron Roth
Judith Shain-Alvaro

MAZEL TOV, MAZEL TOV

Happy, happy birthday to **Sig Westerman**,
on his 97th birthday! Biz hundert-un-
tzvantzig, un mehr!

MAY YOU BE COMFORTED

Our condolences to **Stuart & Sima Alper** on
the passing of Stuart's mother, Madeline
Alper.

To our Congregation Family and Friends,

We would like to thank all our friends and the
entire FJC/CBI Family for their love, concern,
meals, donations, visits and cards in expression of
sympathy on the passing of our mother and
grandmother, Madeline Alper. It is times like this
that one realizes how lucky we are to be part of a
loving and caring synagogue community.

With sincere thanks,

Sima, Stuart, Miranda & Adam Alper

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Charles Cohen

Shalom Haverim,

I am pleased to report the happy news that Rabbi Emeritus Ron Roth has returned to teaching Torah at our Nosh and Knowledge Class each Tuesday, 11:30 am to 12:30. I urge all current and new members to join us in this stimulating learning experience, as we study and discuss challenging and interesting passages in the Torah.

Rabbi Dina Shargel is conducting classes on The Bible and Song on Wednesdays, December 4 and 11 at 8:00 pm, and Understanding the Siddur on Sunday, December 8 at 8:45 am, and I urge you to attend her excellent classes as well.

On Thursday evening, December 12th, I will be presenting an interesting lecture on "The Last Sanhedrin," which took place in Napoleonic France more than 200 years ago, under very unlikely circumstances.

The Great Sanhedrin (The Jewish "Supreme" Court of 70 Judges) in the Land of Israel had its historical demise 2,000 years ago, some time after the destruction of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

The Great Sanhedrin was gone . . . only to be revived by none other than the enigmatic French ruler, Napoleon Bonaparte.

The fateful decisions that the Judges of the "Last Sanhedrin" in France would make set precedent for Jewish survival in the secular world.

Please attend, and let us re-live this era and the difficult challenges the Great Sanhedrin of that era had to deal with and overcome.

Happy learning.

Charlie

SISTERHOOD Jennifer Mendelsohn

November was yet another busy month for our Sisterhood! We started out the month making snack packs for kids in need, followed by our first book club with breakfast event. Paid-up membership was at the middle of the month, and we concluded the month with a bowling night that we co-sponsored with the MPC.

Thank you Lily and Alex Shinkar for opening up your home once again this year to our Sisterhood ladies, in order for us to put together the snack packs there. Thank you to everyone who shopped for the necessary items for the packs, and to all who showed up to put the packs together.

Yishar koah to Leslie Frucht for leading a very interesting discussion on the book entitled, "Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity and Love" by Dani Shapiro.

Thank you to our Membership VPs, Robin Baer and Leslie Frucht, for organizing a very-well-attended Paid-Up Membership event. This year we made mosaic pieces. I cannot wait to see how my mosaic frame turned out! Although I can say for sure that I'm definitely no mosaic expert, it was fun spending a night out, bonding with my Sisterhood friends (both old and new), while also making a creative art piece.

Thank you to Ann Golick and Bob Sokol for organizing the bowling event. I'm told that everyone who attended had a "ball"!

Looking ahead, here are some events which might be of interest to you...

Annual Hagigat Hanukkah: December 15th at 10 am. Join Sisterhood for a fun inter-generational event with the Religious School students, to celebrate Hanukkah together in the Pulka Room.

Vodka & Latkas: On December 19th Gail Rottenstreich is once again graciously hosting a Hanukkah party for all Sisterhood members ages 21 years and over at her home, located at 41-06 Christine Court, Fair Lawn. This is definitely a favorite event for many of our members, and it's always a good time for all!

Sisterhood Shabbat is coming up on January 12th! Contact Ilene Laufer (rflanzman@aol.com) or Estelle Haberman (tantee2245@gmail.com) if you'd like a part in this all-women-led service, conducted exclusively by members of our Sisterhood. There are Torah parts available, English- and Hebrew-speaking parts, as well as Ark openings/closings. This service is always inspirational, spiritual and one of my favorite services throughout the year.

Wishing you and your families a happy Hanukkah, full of light, laughter and love! Also, happy and healthy 2020!

B'shalom,

Jen Mendelsohn



SABRA CULTURE

Beginners' Israeli Dancing
Arts & Crafts
Hebrew Literature (in Hebrew)
American History

MEN'S PROGRESS CLUB Bob Sokol

I hope you enjoyed the Paid-Up Membership Event November 3rd. We would like to thank Dr. Evan Leibowitz for bringing in Dr. Jerry Stahl, Dr. Mitch Weiser, and Dr. Wayne DeTorres for a fascinating presentation.

We had a great time bowling with the Sisterhood at T-Bowl Saturday night, November 23rd.

We also had a terrific Poker Tournament November 14th.

The Men's Progress Club has a lot of activities and interesting programs coming up. Hope you'll join us, including:

We look forward to a Sunday morning program with the Radio Club of Fair Lawn, led by congregant David Gotlib. Doors open at 9:30 AM on December 8th in the Bornstein Room. It is another Men's Progress Club Sunday morning bagel breakfast. It is open to Men's Progress Club paid-up members.

Future events include:

- The Big Breakfast in January
- The Super Bowl Party in February
- The Worldwide Wrap
- Other Future Speaker Breakfasts

Our membership drive continues. You should have received the membership letter. Membership will get you into most of our programs, including Paid-up Membership Breakfast, the Big Breakfast and other Sunday morning programs.

Thank you to those that already support our phone directory. I know we use our directory all of the time. Your support keeps the directory coming to your house year after

year. I want to thank Larry Bach, Howard Kessel and Evan Marcus for overseeing the

phone directory.

Once again, I'd like to thank the MPC Board: especially the hard work of Hal Fine, Joe Schkolnick, Howard Kessel, Stu Breitkopf, Larry Bach, Sam Wolosin, Stuart Alper, Neil Garfinkle, Eric Hirsch, Seth Seigel-Laddy, Charlie Cohen, and Joel Ringer.

I hope that you join us this year.

Bob Sokol

MPC BREAKFAST SERIES EVENT

DECEMBER 8

We invite MPC members
to join us for bagels and coffee,

and to hear
MPC member David Gotlib
talk about

Radio Communication
with the Fair Lawn Radio Club
The Original Wireless
Communication System

in The Bornstein Room
9:45 - 11:00 AM

Looking forward to seeing you there!

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Tikun Olam

EMERGENCY SUPPLY PACKAGES (ESP)

We are creating 100 winter Emergency Supply Packages for Meals on Wheels recipients and others supported by Jewish Family Services in our community.

During the winter, inclement weather can make it impossible for them to receive their needed delivery of food. We will give each of them a bag of emergency provisions for those times.

We are accepting donations through Sunday, December 8.

Many of the recipients are Holocaust survivors, and/or depend on Meals on Wheels for their daily sustenance.

Packages to include:

Bottled water
Individual packages of tuna/salmon (not cans)
Low sodium soups (not cans)
Low sodium crackers
Dried fruits / raisins
Juice boxes
Individual tissue packages
Peanut butter
Individual servings, preferably sugar free, of:
Apple sauce
Fruit cups
Pudding / Jello
Cereal / Oatmeal

All items must be kosher

Remember, you don't need ESP (Extra Sensory Perception) to provide an ESP (Emergency Supply Package).

There are two ways to help:

1. Simply take this list to your local supermarket and drop off the items in the bin in the lobby.
2. Sponsor a package for \$18 each. Please send your donation to the Fair Lawn Jewish Center with a note specifying ESP Project.

Please contact Ilene Laufer with any questions at RFlanzman@aol.com

Thank you in advance for your generosity and kindness.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Tikun Olam

Nina Gold Ron

This is a busy time of year for Social Action, and there are lots of ways for you to participate!

Hanukkah Toy Drive - we're collecting new, unwrapped toys to be distributed to those in need in our area. Please see Beth Perlman for more details.

Emergency Supply Packages - The Hebrew School Zayin class will be assembling Emergency Supply Packages on December 10 for Jewish elderly in our area who receive Meals on Wheels. We still could use some items, so please see the flyer on page 14, or Ilene Laufer for more details!

Hackensack Homeless Shelter Dinner - On December 22, two nights before Christmas Eve, we will be preparing and serving dinner to >100 homeless individuals at the Hackensack Shelter. We still need volunteers to buy or prepare items and others to serve (teens with parent are welcome). Please contact Gail Rottenstrich to learn how you can help! This is such an easy and important way to help others in our community, so please get involved!

Thank you everyone who helped with the JFNNJ **Mitzvah Day** collections of magazines for memory books for people with Alzheimer's, and travel-size toiletries for the homeless. We enjoyed doing our own mitzvah projects with the Hebrew School children. Planning is still in the works at the time of this writing, so will review next issue. Pictures to follow next month too!

Thanks to everyone who bought beautiful **J-ADD Thanksgiving flowers / centerpieces** and helped those with disabilities.

Flowers are also available for every Shabbat at Federation and the JCC, and event cen-

terpieces can be arranged as well. flow ersbyjadd@j-add.org

Thank you everyone who helped assemble 100 **Weekend Snack Packs** for the CFA to distribute to needy children, and to the Shinkars for hosting. (We will be doing this again in the spring with the Zayin class.)

Please don't forget our ongoing projects, such as helping homeless families through **Family Promise** and **transcribing for the blind**. Contact Sarit Hand for more information.

Also, anyone who has been recently hospitalized and would like a visit or a **Shabbat meal**, please remember to reach out to me or the office and we would be happy to help!

As always we welcome your ideas and participation. Our meetings are usually the **second Monday night of the month** and all are welcome! Please contact me with any questions!!

Our next meeting is **December 9** at 8 PM. See you then!!

Nina



THE ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

presents

"THE LAST SANHEDRIN"

Thursday, December 12th 8:15 pm

Presenter: Charles Cohen

The Great Sanhedrin of Ancient Israel was dissolved, and finally lost, some years after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, until the Sanhedrin was reconvened by none other than the French ruler Napoleon Bonaparte, at the start of the 19th century.

Napoleon assembled 71 of the great rabbinic judges of that era to consider and answer 12 questions of Jewish law that would determine the fate of Jewish life in France and elsewhere for years to come.

We will re-examine these same questions and answers, and consider their relevance today.

Light refreshments will be served.

All members are invited to attend.

Veterans' Day Commemoration FLJC & TBS



Dvar Torah Delivered by Neil Garfinkle on Solidarity Shabbat

Well here we go again!

Almost one year ago, on Saturday, October 27th, 2018, at 9:54 A.M., a heavily-armed white supremacist entered the Tree of Life synagogue building in Pittsburgh, PA, and began the deadliest anti-Semitic attack in U.S. history.

One year later, how did we get here again? I'll tell you exactly how we got here again!

Teaching about the Holocaust is only required in 12 states!

66% of millennials have no idea what Auschwitz is!

Only 1 in 5 has ever heard the term "Holocaust."

According to the Anti-Defamation League: Jewish institutions in the United States have been targeted by extremists more than 50 times since the attacks in Pittsburgh.

At least one dozen white supremacists have been arrested for such shootings, plots, and threats since the deadliest anti-Semitic attack in U.S. history a year ago at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh.

Even the USHMM released a statement this past Thursday which, in part, says, "In recent years and recent months even, we have seen a surge in anti-Semitic rhetoric, hate crimes, and a weaponized nationalism both here in the United States and abroad."

That is how we got here! And right here, right now, is where it all stops! Right here, Right now!

This is an unprecedented time in our history for Jews, and for all minority groups, as the white supremacist threat knows no limits.

Today is the first Shabbat after Simhat Torah. Shabbat Bereishit. Shabbat of Beginning. The theme and tone of this week's parsha is one of beginning and renewal. The rebbes would say: "As one establishes oneself on Shabbat Bereishit, so goes the rest of the year."

Let's start today. Let's establish ourselves right now how we want to act, not only for the rest of the year, but forever. This nonsense must stop!

As we read in this week's parsha: "And God said, Let there be light, and there was light! And God saw the light that it was good, and God separated between the light and between the darkness."

It is time to come out of the darkness, and into the light!

Two years ago, after the incident in Charlottesville, I called the Executive Director of the trip I lead each summer to Germany and Poland, whose mother had survived Auschwitz and a death march to Ravensbrueck. I asked her how she felt about what was transpiring in Virginia. She said, "I worry about the children. With all they are seeing and hearing, how are they feeling?"

Over the past two weeks I have had the opportunity to interact with young adults about this topic. And I am here to tell you that we are going to be fine. I am fully confident we will reach the light at the end of the tunnel.

Last week, I had the opportunity to listen to 93-year-old Holocaust survivor Minnie Osher give her testimony at the Hillel at the University of Maryland. There, Ms. Osher stood with her daughter, granddaughter and great-granddaughter, a sophomore at the University of Maryland -- all 4 generations standing together in solidarity, as she recalled her experiences in the Lodz Ghetto, Bergen Belsen, and Auschwitz, to a packed room of college students.

As I sat there listening to her story, as she spoke with her fake teeth since the Nazis knocked out all of her real teeth as a child when she dared to reach for a little extra helping of food, I thought to myself, I am not sitting in on a class. There is no professor, this is not for credit. Young adults are here because they want to be here, because they care! Because they are just as upset with what is happening in our world as we are.

These young adults, STUDENTS, will lead us out of the darkness and show us the light! IN HE-BREW!

This past Columbus Day, I met and spoke with the students at one of our very own schools: Memorial Middle School. It seems hate had come to our very own town of Fair Lawn. A few weeks earlier, two swastikas were found in the school within a span of 2 weeks. The first was found on a bathroom mirror; the second was found etched in an armrest in an auditorium chair.

As I spoke, I did not mention the Holocaust once, or the reason why I was there. I spoke about the danger of, and the power of symbols. And what they could lead to.

I didn't preach to them; we had a conversation, and I came away feeling positive and hopeful that they, too, would lead us out of the darkness into the light of solidarity!!!

After listening at Maryland Hillel, and after having a conversation with middle school students here in Fair Lawn, I believe this is the brand-new beginning of something positive. Breisheit Shabbat. We are at a starting point, and from this day forward, it will be one of renewal. No More.

I also told them that, with as much time as they spend in school, Memorial Middle School was like their second home, and just like the slogan for Under Armour, I told them, "We must protect This House." WE MUST PROTECT THIS HOUSE!!

So, too, on this Solidarity Shabbat, we must protect this House.

As I look out at all of the amazing, hard-working, selfless, dedicated members of our synagogue and community here today, I know this House, our House here at the FLJC/CBI, will be fine. We, too, are beginning a new chapter. One of renewal. We have five old/new presidents. I, for one, am excited to be led by all of you. Particularly because I have only been a member under one of you.

This week's Torah portion is about creation, and that we all share one common ancestor.

As the Chief Rabbi of Poland told our teachers' group a few summers back, "If God wanted us all to be the same, he would have made us all the same." "The world was created to embrace differences, not diminish them."

Life is about finding the uniqueness in each person that can enrich you.

Let's all be kind to each other going forward, so we are back here in one year because we WANT to be together, not because we feel we HAVE to be together.

In Solidarity!

Shabbat Shalom!



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for

Hanukkah Storytime

at the

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Sunday, December 15th, 2019

2:00 PM



Perfect for children
ages 2-8



Open to the entire community!

Hanukkah Music

Dreidel Games

Other Activities

to Enjoy!

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Coloring

To RSVP or for additional information,
contact AndreaPassPR@gmail.com

Maurice M. Pine Fair Lawn Library
10-01 Fair Lawn Avenue, Fair Lawn, NJ

HOWARD & JOSHUA HERMAN EDUCATION CENTER

Neil Garfinkle

Shalom my friends!

When was the last time you were upstairs in YOUR Hebrew School? I would like to personally invite you upstairs, not only to see all of the learning take place, but to see how beautifully decorated the classroom and hallway bulletin boards are. And, of course, you can not help but notice all of the smiling and giggling taking place. Please, make some time to come upstairs one Tuesday or Friday.

Your Hebrew School continues to be extremely busy and running on all cylinders...

On Sunday, November 3rd, the entire Zayin class attended a Kehillah at the Jewish Community Center of Paramus / Congregation Beth Tikvah.

Once again, one of our Hebrew School students proved to be a shining example of the work that is being done upstairs. On Shabbat, November 9th, Kyle Ludzky "lit up" the bima while chanting his haftorah, as his family and friends lit up the sanctuary with their proud, beaming smiles! I am sure all of you who attended could not help but be impressed.

Who comes to shul in their pajamas? That's crazy! Well, You did! On Friday, November 15th! I saw you praying and eating in your pajamas, and having a great time! Thank you to those who came to our Family Shabbat Dinner - PJ Style. A great time was had by all. Be on the lookout for another Family Shabbat Dinner – SPORTS TEAM STYLE soon!

Who was here on Shabbat morning, November 23rd to see our Gan and Aleph classes sing Adon Olam all by themselves up on the bima, to close out Shabbat morning services? How great were they? Thank you to every Religious School family for coming to

services, AND to the many graduates of our Hebrew School who volunteered and helped Morah Deb! A big shout out to: Andrew Baker, Benjamin Garfinkle, Seth Klein, Cobey Sedaka and Gil Zyndorf.

If you are interested in helping out at the Hebrew School, please feel free to reach out to me.

REMEMBER: All grades are always welcome. If you have a special honor or not!!

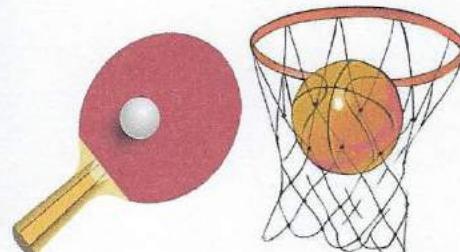
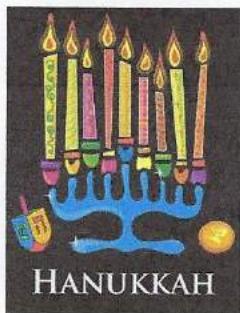
Mitzvah Day is such a special time to learn about the magic of giving, and how magical it can make you feel by helping others. On Sunday, November 24th, our K-3 grades participated in a Mitzvah Day project at the JCCP/CBT, while our 4th-7th graders participated in a very special mitzvah project here at our shul. This mitzvah project was coordinated with our Religious School and the Social Action Committee, and Nina Ron and Craig Mont.

Looking ahead to this month ... I know, I know, the Hagigat Hanukkah is here (ALREADY?) See you and your family on the 15th.

Have a great holiday, and as always, THANK YOU for your support!

Neil

FLIPPER KADIMA (6th-8th grades) Early Chanukah Party/ Games



Sunday December 15th 1-3 p.m.

JCCP/CBT 304 East Midland Avenue, Paramus

Latkes and apple sauce, Sufganiyot (jelly donuts) and so much fun playing games and sports in the gym and youth lounge.

Bring your favorite board games!

Rummikub Scrabble UNO Chess Taki Dreidel

\$5 KADIMA MEMBERS, \$10 NON-MEMBERS

Reminder—all Jewish 6-8 graders are welcome even if not a member of the 3 sponsoring congregations.

(JCCP/CBT, FLJC and TI Ridgewood)

RSVP by December 10th to Marcia Kagedan
(FLIPPER ADVISOR)

201-262-7733 or edudirector@jccparamus.org



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Anne & Stephen Math and family

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Mazel tov in honor of the Bar and Bat Mitzvah
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Rochelle & Bob Wein

Prayers and wishes for Bob's recovery
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Florence Wolff

Congratulations on your great birthday, from
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Phyllis Mirchin

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In memory of your beloved mother
Men's Progress Club

Stuart Alper

Condolences on the passing of your mother,
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Esther & Stuart Rubinstein

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The Alper Family

In memory of your mother and grandmother
Linda & Jeff Ayes

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In honor of the baby naming of my grand-
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Thank you for the honor of Chatan Braishit on
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In memory of your beloved father
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May their memories be for a blessing

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PLAYING DREIDEL

The dreidel is a top, containing four letters -- one on each side - Nun, Gimel, Hey, and Shin. The letters stand for the sentence Nes Gadol Haya Sham: A Great Miracle Happened There. Dreidel can be played by any number of people -- children as well as adults. Each person puts something in the "kitty" - walnuts are often used.

Spin the dreidel. When it stops, if the letter on top is a Gimel you get to take the whole kitty. And then everyone has to put in another walnut or two to replenish the kitty. If the letter is Hey, you take Half the kitty. If it's a Nun you get Nothing. But if it's a Shin, you have to put another walnut in.

In Israel, the letter Shin (meaning Sham - 'there') is often changed to the letter Peh (Nes Gadol Haya Po) - A Great Miracle Happened Here!

Enjoy playing Dreidel while you wait for the Latkes to be ready!

How often have you been asked what the correct spelling is of our December holiday?

There are different transliterations in style at different times.

The prevailing current spelling is:

Hanukkah

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NOSH & KNOWLEDGE

Tuesdays, 11:30 AM -12:30 PM

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Join Rabbi Ronald Roth for the popular Tuesday Nosh & Knowledge.

Engage in challenging discussions.

We resume our studies in the Book of Deuteronomy, and discuss many of the thought-provoking issues that arise from a close reading of the Biblical text.

All are welcome, even if you have not been in the class before.

All texts will be read in English; no prior knowledge of the Bible is necessary, and each class is independent of the others, so come as often as you like.

Bagels will be provided.

Upcoming Schedule of Classes:

December 3, 10, 17, 31

January 7, 14, 21, 28

February 4, 11, 18, 25

March 3, 10, 17, 21, 31

April 21, 28

May 5, 12, 19, 26

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

