

# Hakol

## The Voice of Congregation B'nai Jacob

Congregation B'nai Jacob of Phoenixville, PA

Kislev– Tevet 5784

December 2023

*Our mission is to provide a place rooted in Jewish tradition where all people feel welcome, supported and enriched. We strive to foster connections to our past, to our future and to the divine in an intimate, accepting community.*

### Service Times

Friday Night- (unless otherwise indicated)	7:30pm
Saturday Morning	9:30am

### Candle Lighting

December 1	4:19pm
December 8	4:18pm
December 15	4:19pm
December 22	4:22pm
December 29	4:27pm

### Events

Community Shabbat– Dec 1	See p. 10
Adult Education– Dec 10	See p. 11
Community Menorah Lighting– Dec 10	See p. 12
Movie Night– Dec 15	See p. 13
Food Distribution– Dec 17	See p. 14



CONGREGATION B'NAI JACOB  
PLACE COMMUNITY CONNECTION  
מקום קהילה קשר

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### Something Shabbat Every Friday

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1st  | Community Shabbat– Potluck Dinner with Family Friendly Service—6:30pm          |
| 8th  | Chanukah/Jelly Donut Shabbat- Increasing Light in the Time of Darkness- 7:30pm |
| 15th | Birthday/Anniversary Shabbat with Ice Cream Sundae Oneg– 7:30pm                |
| 22nd | Winter Break Regular Service– 7:30pm   |
| 29th | Winter Break Regular Service– 7:30pm   |



### **Dear *Chaveirim*/Friends:**

The first baby I ever saw being born was when I was 25 years old. While on the road, I had made friends who'd become like family, and the mother was pregnant. We kept in close touch as my bicycle journey continued its serendipitous and unpredictable path around the country. It just so happened that I was in southern Mississippi, possibly the closest my journey would take me to where they lived in southern Louisiana, only a few days before she was due. With the help and kindness of two Mississippians who the day before had been strangers, I found myself on a bus headed due south. I arrived in New Iberia, Louisiana with a day to spare before the home birth, and left a few days after, now a godfather.

As I sat on the bus heading due north back to my bicycle in Magnolia, Mississippi, I was exhilarated and exhausted and had plenty of time to ponder over the miracle I'd just witnessed. It was absolutely clear that the baby was unambiguously and undeniably pure and innocent. And then I had the troubling thought that many times we regard the adults we meet with judgment, distrust and fear. I wondered, what was the point, the moment, the age, when the benefit of the doubt shifted from the assumption of innocence to the new default of regarding other people with wariness?

I've been thinking about that experience a lot lately, with the unprecedented death of so many babies in the war between Israel and Hamas. [Please note that I am not attempting to write an up-to-date commentary on the latest developments in the war. As mentioned other times before, the gap between when *HaKol* writings are due and when the newsletter actually arrives in your mailbox is too wide to try to be current. Instead, this is a meditation, taking one step back, about one aspect of the war and its toll.]

Since October 7, Hamas has made it absolutely clear that it doesn't care one whit about Israeli

babies. And it's also made it just as clear that it doesn't care so much about Gazan babies either. It knew full well how Israel would respond to the massacres, and it made the cold-hearted calculation that it was worth the death of Gazan babies and other innocents in the war that would ensue.

We know too that those babies and innocents in Gaza who have been killed by Israeli bombs are also a tragedy. We will argue amongst ourselves whether those deaths were avoidable or not, necessary or not, excessive or not. But none of us can really question whether they were tragic or not. When it comes to babies, can it really matter who the parents are? Is it possible for our hearts not to break?

And I'm brought back to that question that troubled me on that bus ride due north back to Mississippi: at what point does the benefit of the doubt of purity and innocence turn to distrust and fear? At what point do we begin to regard another person as evil, as expendable, as worthy of death?

Much is lost in a time of war. It's our responsibility to make sure that what is *not* lost is our morality and our humanity. It's absolutely not fair that Israel is required to feel more responsibility than Hamas for the well-being of babies in Gaza. But nevertheless, fair or not, we still need to. The moment we start discounting the deaths of babies, we've lost something precious in ourselves as well.

In thinking about Israel's response to the October 7 massacres, it's unacceptable that other countries hold Israel to a higher standard than they themselves are willing to follow. Holding such a double-standard is, to put it bluntly, anti-semitism. We as Jews, however, can and must hold *ourselves* to a higher standard. There is a duty, of course, simply to survive. And there is also a duty to live up to our calling to be "a light unto the nations." To exemplify our highest values not only most of the time, but especially in the most difficult of times.

*Continued on Page 3*

## RABBI'S MESSAGE (CONT.)

*Continued from Page 2*

I wish I had answers. I wish I knew the best way to achieve true security and peace as soon as possible. In my uncertainty, though, I never want to lose sight of the fact that the death of innocent babies is always a tragedy. It is always heartbreaking. And the moment we stop seeing it as such, we will have lost part of our humanity.

I often sign my messages with the Hebrew phrase "For peace." In this difficult time, it is not merely a general wish, but a fervent prayer.

**L'Shalom,  
Rabbi Jeff Sultar**

## FROM THE RABBI

### I Look Forward to Talking with You!

I look forward to meeting with you to talk about, well, just about anything that might be on your mind.

While you can always leave this to chance by just dropping by CBJ, it's best to call or e-mail to set a time for us to meet. While it's wonderful when people just stop by, sometimes people are frustrated that I'm not available when they do so. The problem is that much of the time I'm at CBJ is already scheduled with meetings; also, I frequently have meetings and Pastoral requirements that take me out of the building; and finally, I usually spend one day a week (typically Thursday) working at home.

For these reasons, never hesitate during "normal" hours to call my cell phone, and please also call the cell number at *any* time for a life-cycle emergency or for any other truly pressing matter. I typically check e-mail at least a few times during the day, but please also know that I have a "dumb" phone and do *not* get e-mails instantly when away from the computer. I get texts just fine.

While I always prefer talking in person, one of e-mails' best features is that it's good for finding mutually-good times to meet.

So be in touch, and let's figure out a good time to talk!

L'Shalom,  
Rabbi Jeff Sultar    E-mail: [rabbi@congbj.org](mailto:rabbi@congbj.org)  
Cell Phone: (732) 606-5381

## A WORD ABOUT YARTZEITS AT CBJ FROM RABBI SULTAR

All members of CBJ have the opportunity to record with the synagogue the dates of *yartzeits* (anniversaries of the death) of people we love and want to remember.

Once CBJ has those dates, a reminder is sent out each year several weeks before the *yartzeit*. The name of the person being remembered is then read out loud on the *Shabbat* of or immediately preceding the *yartzeit*. Many people make an extra effort to attend the Friday evening or Shabbat morning service when the name is read, in order to say the Mourners *Kaddish*. Please know that these names are read out loud and *Kaddish* is said for them whether you're there or not. It is of course better when the person actually saying *Kaddish* is present. (We also read out loud each *Shabbat* the name of members and their family who have died for the entire 30 day (*shloshim*) period following the day of burial).

Some of our members prefer to say *Kaddish* on the actual day of the *yartzeit*. CBJ will always make every effort to make sure that there is a *minyan* at CBJ on the appropriate day so that this can happen (those services are usually scheduled for 7:00 PM). All you need to do is to contact Sandy Stone, whose email address is [sbs1949@verizon.net](mailto:sbs1949@verizon.net), and cell phone is (484) 744-3266. Of course, it always helps to invite friends and family, and to give Sandy a sense of how many more people will be needed to reach the number of 10 Jewish adults.

Saying *Kaddish* is one of three ways that *yartzeits* are observed. Another is to light a 24 hour memorial candle in the evening when the *yartzeit* begins (keep in mind that Jewish days start the evening before the day). And the third is to give *tzedakah* specifically in memory of the person who has died, to continue to bring goodness into the world in their name, when they are no longer directly able to do so themselves. Many people choose to make a donation to their desired fund at CBJ for this purpose. And while we greatly appreciate these donations, the key thing is to give *tzedakah*, whether it's to CBJ or to some other organization close to the heart of the person you're remembering, or meaningful to you.



### What is CBJ's "Secret Sauce"?

As we turn the page on year 2023 and look ahead together to early 2024, let's answer this question: **"What is CBJ's Secret Sauce Enabling our Community to Thrive?"** This collaborative exercise will support our shared Vision, help us further plan for our future and build upon our strengths in a strategic way. This assessment process will help us:

Identify Areas Where We Thrive  
Explore What is Driving Growth  
Identify Areas Requiring Further Attention

Synagogues are complex and, as we know, exceedingly diverse. There is no blueprint or single recipe for success. When a thriving synagogue is at work, there are specific ingredients usually present, leveraging their "Secret Sauce". These elements are referred to as the "Attributes of Thriving Synagogues".

In partnership with USCJ and the support of our USCJ Consultant, we will undertake the Thriving Congregations Assessment (TCA) to assess our overall vitality (takes about 15-20 minutes to complete online). This tool helps us to meaningfully engage in the questions that help define a "successful" synagogue and identify areas where we are thriving and areas where we are not. We will learn about key attributes that contribute to a "successful" congregation (The CBJ Secret Sauce).

More information will be forthcoming in January 2024 including next steps to kick-off the assessment process.

While on the topic of Attributes that contribute to CBJ's success – a CBJ attribute that comes to mind is Community Engagement - our ability to bring our Community together for holiday events and celebrations. We know from experience; our Community is stronger when we come together and even more when we enrich and engage each other....and of course....have a nosh!

Mark your calendar for our **Community Menorah Lighting – Sunday December 10 at 4:30pm.** This is a special family-friendly community event and an opportunity for **all** of us to gather with family and friends to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> night of Chanukah at CBJ! We will meet outside to light the large menorah and recite the blessings. This will be followed by jelly donuts, hot chocolate, songs and dreidel games inside! All are invited to attend, and bring your own menorah - candles will be available. Plus, we will be joined by several dignitaries from our area to celebrate with us.

Special "Thank You's" to Jennifer Ford-Bey, Andrea Zavod, Bekah Starr, Adrienne Burns, Lorraine and Stephen Schur and Rabbi Sultar for their work on this event.

L'Shalom,

**Mark J. Snow**  
President

### Welcome to our New CBJ Members!

Julie Szakal and daughter, Sydney (welcome back) from Collegeville

### LIVESTREAM

#### Livestream All Services

We are excited to announce CBJ Livestream! Just follow these steps:

1. Go to [www.congbi.org](http://www.congbi.org) from your PC, Laptop, Tablet or Phone
2. Scroll down and click the button under Services – WATCH LIVESTREAM
3. Complete the very brief form and click SUBMIT
4. You will be taken to the CBJ Livestream page (BOXCAST) for the service



## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

In our first month the students are settling into their class routines and getting into their class specific studies.

Our K-2 class has started a Chanukah unit and are learning about the Maccabees, King Antiochus, and the oil that lasted eight days. They are also working on a creative writing project for Chanukah.

Our 3rd-5<sup>th</sup> graders have been diving into the Torah portions, the holidays and about the Jewish calendar and why it works as it does.

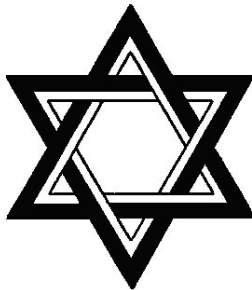
Our 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders have been learning about the introduction to the holocaust and how WWII played a part in it by defining key terms and events, and important people; how Kristallnacht relates to antisemitism during WWII and in modern day; and what characteristics we should hold as Jews that we can contribute to society and our Jewish community.

In addition, the students have become avid participants in Tefillah, the Havdalah service, and JRA food packing.

We are looking forward to December 10 and our Chanukah celebrations.

- Parent/child class, 10 am, led by Bekar Starr, is open to three-to-six-year-olds. This is a hands-on, interactive program that is followed by the Religious School Chanukah celebration.

- Religious School Chanukah celebration, 11 am, includes games, crafts, and latkes! Everyone is welcome!



## SISTERHOOD



Women of Congregation B'nai Jacob: all are welcome to join Sisterhood. Be part of the backbone of CBJ!

**December 3 and 9 – Sisterhood Gift Shop sale dates,** and I've had my eye on that VW Bus menorah for years! Could this be the year I treat myself to it? Splurge – for your friends or for yourself!

### **We're Pondering some Possibilities:**

Bowling for Yentas  
Philadelphia Jewish walking or trolley tour  
One or two more Re-gifting Bingo nights

It's going to be a great year for CBJ Sisterhood, and all of us look forward to seeing all of you!

### **SISTERHOOD CALENDAR 2023–2024**

#### **2023**

December 3 and 9 Holiday Gift Shop Sale 9am – 1pm

#### **2024**

March 17 Tour of Jaffa (Yafo, as it is now called)

March 19 Social Event

April 5 Sisterhood Shabbat, led by Jodi Rosenfeld

June (TBD) Karen Real Torah Fund Luncheon



## HOUSE AND GROUNDS

### Help wanted...House and Grounds

The House and Grounds committee (of 1) is looking for volunteers to help from time to time.

Duties include setting up tables and chairs for High Holidays and other events, setting up and taking down the Sukkah and Hanukah Menorah, changing light bulbs and batteries in fire and burglar alarm systems and small handyman tasks.

There is also some outside clean up and maintenance, as well as needing help from time to time opening and closing the building for contractors.

Timing is generally very flexible.

If you can help, please contact Chuck Epstein at [CLEpstein@gmail.com](mailto:CLEpstein@gmail.com) or 610-212-7744 (leave a message). Thank you!

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Chuck Epstein

## CBJ COVID POLICY

### **UPDATED**

Covid vaccination and up-to-date booster status is strongly encouraged for all who are eligible.

**NOTE:** Covid vaccination is no longer required.

Masking is encouraged, especially for those who are unvaccinated or otherwise high risk. CBJ is a mask friendly community, and everyone who chooses to should feel comfortable masking.

**NOTE:** Masking is not required.

If you have an illness (e.g., fever, cough, flu-like symptoms, sore throat, etc.), then please stay home.

Food and drink are allowed (as per pre-Covid CBJ policy).

Live streaming will continue.

## B'NAI JACOB CEMETERY

The Board of Directors of B'nai Jacob Cemetery Association has approved changes in fees that will take effect on 1 January 2024. The Perpetual Care Fee for CBJ members will be \$1,800, a 20% increase. Similar increases to other fees, which do not apply to CBJ members, will also go into effect. Fees have been held unchanged for the past 2-1/2 years and are now being adjusted to reflect the increase in costs that the Cemetery is experiencing.

All persons wishing to have B'nai Jacob Cemetery be their final resting place must reserve a burial lot in advance of need. CBJ members can reserve a burial lot without advance payment of fees. By pre-paying prior to need, however, CBJ members can ensure that the Cemetery's Perpetual Care Fee is "locked-in" for them or their estate and not subject to the current increase or future increases. Payments can be spaced-out over time to help ease financial burden.

B'nai Jacob Cemetery Association is a non-profit public charity that owns and manages the Cemetery. There are no paid employees. The Cemetery is a traditional Jewish cemetery that adheres to the rulings of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Rabbinical Assembly of Conservative Judaism. Deceased persons of the Jewish faith and those deceased persons who were not Jewish, but were part of a Jewish family, can be buried in the Cemetery.

If you are considering making a reservation for a burial lot, would like to now pre-pay a fee for a reservation that you have already made or just wish to find out more about the Cemetery, please contact Valerie in the CBJ office. You will be put in touch with a representative of the Cemetery who will be able to provide information and assistance.

Steve Skopp  
President, B'nai Jacob Cemetery Association

## SCRIP PROGRAM

**Support CBJ with our New Easy to Use CBJ RaiseRight Scrip Program**

**Support the new CBJ RaiseRight (formerly Shopwithscrip) by purchasing gift cards to your favorite stores and restaurants!**

***You purchase cards at face value and CBJ receives 2-20% on every purchase. Enjoy the convenience of having access to over 750 top brands from the comfort of your home or the ease of your phone!***

ACME, Giant, Amazon, Target, Walmart, Home Depot, GrubHub and many more! Birthdays, Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduations, donate to people in need...

Instructions are below but you may always contact Lisa Anton, Scrip Coordinator, at [lanton109@yahoo.com](mailto:lanton109@yahoo.com) help you through the process.

**Easy Enrollment on either your computer or phone:**

1. Go to [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com)
2. Click "Join a Program" (desktop) or "Register" (cell)
3. Enter enrollment code: **97999E3432453**
4. Follow the prompts to create your account and start shopping!
5. Your cart will show your total cost and CBJ's profit.
6. Pay directly from your bank account (with a \$.15 ACH fee) or use a credit card.

For any questions or if you would like to pay with a check, please contact Lisa Anton, Scrip Coordinator, at [lanton109@yahoo.com](mailto:lanton109@yahoo.com)

## MEET OUR MEMBERS

*As an initiative of Team Engage, we are sharing interviews with CBJ members to promote engagement within the congregation.*

### **Meet Jodi Rosenfeld, by Adrienne Burns for Team Engage**

If you come to CBJ at all, often you will run into Jodi Rosenfeld – she seems to always be there. Whether running a service, reading from Torah, or just helping out, she gives of herself again and again to help CBJ function. A member since 2007, she has filled roles as diverse as Rosh Hodesh leader, Parent/Child Class teacher, Membership Chair, Secretary, and 4 years as president. She also helped cover Rabbi Sultar while he was on sabbatical.

Jody grew up in Easton, CT, on her family's farm ([www.silvermansfarm.com](http://www.silvermansfarm.com)) and then spent ten years in Boston, four years in Baltimore, and now has lived in Phoenixville since 2005. She stays at CBJ as she loves being a part of a small, intimate community where everyone knows one another. She also feels that having a rabbi she can learn from is one extremely important and has learned immeasurably from both Rabbi Brown and Rabbi Sultar during her years at CBJ.

Currently, Jodi is in the third of six years as a rabbinical student at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC) in Wyncote. After two decades practicing psychology, she LOVES being a student again. To her, RRC is an incredibly special place. She is currently doing a required chaplaincy internship at Spring Mill Point, a senior living facility in Lafayette Hill and is planning to do a full time Clinical Pastoral Education program this summer at CHOP.

A primary focus for Jodi is her love of writing. In 2021, her first novel, *Closer to Fine*, was published by She Writes Press (there's a copy in our CBJ library!). Since then she has mostly been writing poetry with Jewish themes. She has a dream of publishing a compilation someday called something like "Poems for the Jewish Year."

Jodi is incredibly proud of her family: her husband Jon, a hand surgeon, her son Zachary – a sophomore at Tufts (her alma mater!), her daughter Talia – a junior at PAHS, and their cat, Asher Lev. She is the oldest of three girls – sister Wendy and her family live in Blacksburg, VA. and sister Shayna and her family live in Birmingham, UK.





### **Personal Appeal for Help in Israel**

Ed Goldman, son of our member Sonja Goldman's son, recently reached out to the CBJ community, for specific help in responding to the destruction of the October 7 massacres by Hamas:

He writes:

You may be aware that three of Sonja's grandchildren live in Israel. Our son Dvir, who is a reservist in Palsar Tschananim (special force, Paratroopers) was called into reserve duty within hours of the devastating attack by Hamas the exact Shabbat that it happened.

Just some background – my family are dual citizens and I made Aliyah in my early twenties. I met my wife, Jeanette, at Tel Aviv University, and basically have built a career in various high-tech companies. That opportunity took us to work and live in six countries. Dvir was born in Hong Kong but spent a bit of his childhood in Israel before we relocated to Boulder. He decided to return to Israel for his military service.

Dvir is an amazing young man and is engaged to be married this coming summer to Amit (who is also amazing).

To mainstream into the Army, Dvir joined Garin Tsabar which is an organization that supports lone soldiers from countries like the US to navigate the army enlistment process. Part of this process is absorption into communities as well as enlisting a host family. Dvir was fortunate enough to have the support of Idit and Adiel Porat at Kibbutz Alumim which is in Otef Aza (on the Gaza border).

Kibbutz Alumim is a beautiful place and I have had the fortune to spend Shabbats there as well as Yom Kippur. Dvir's unit is well equipped and he is looking to raise money to rehabilitate the Kibbutz.

Below is his personal outreach:

#### **Alumim coming home with your help**

Dear friends,

Kibbutz Alumim, located on the border of the Gaza Strip was founded in 1966. For the 57 years of its existence, it has flourished, producing prime agriculture, and generations of children and youth.

But all came to a standstill during a long day of battle. On the morning of October 7<sup>th</sup>, on the joyous festival of Simchat Torah, dozens of terrorists infiltrated the kibbutz. They attacked and murdered foreign farm workers, burnt agriculture infrastructure and kibbutz institutions, and then a grand battle ensued, led by the kibbutz security squad, who drove them away. We are raising funds to rebuild and restore Kibbutz Alumim, and we appeal to all of you to assist us as much as you can.

**Alumim has not fallen and never will.** With your help, we can restore Alumim to its magnificent glory and bring her home.

To help Alumim, please go to this link: <https://pe4ch.com/ref/sBtgV2pH2cen>

# COMMUNITY SHABBAT IS COMING!



**Friday, December 1st**  
**6:30 pm**

## **Community Shabbat:**

Please Join us for at 6:30 pm for Pot Luck Dinner  
Followed by a 7:30 pm Family-friendly Service



# **Does a Golem Count in a Minyan?**

## **(And Other 21<sup>st</sup> Century Implications of an Ancient Legend)**

### **Adult Education with Rabbi Sultar**

*"Who can say he knows anything about the Golem? ...Always they treat it as a legend, till somethings happens and turns it into actuality again. After which it's talked of for many a day."*

- Gustav Meyrink, in his 1915 novel *The Golem*

The golem – an artificial person created by mystical and magical means – has taken many different forms throughout Jewish history. In the coming year, we'll explore together the earliest recorded citings/sightings of the golem, and how the legend(s) evolved right up into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We'll consider how the golem has served as an ever-changing metaphor for the most pressing issues of each generation. And because the Rabbis of old *believed* the golem existed – whether it actually did or not – they asked halachic/Jewish legal questions that now provide us with a Jewish perspective on today's and tomorrow's headlines, as we stand on the verge of possibly creating the first-ever actual golems in the history of the world.

### **Sundays at 10:00 – 11:00 AM**

### **In-Person in the CBJ Library (and via Zoom)**

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 3. December 10: | How Did the Golem Find Its Way to Prague?                                  |
| 4. January 7:   | Does a Golem Count in a Minyan? – The Golem in <i>Halacha</i> /Jewish Law  |
| 5. February 4:  | The Golem Comes to Israel  |
| 6. March 10:    | Starring & Supporting Roles – The Golem in Movies, TV Shows & Novels       |
| 7. April 14:    | Building Golems Today, Part 1 – Getting Real about 'Artificial Persons'    |
| 8. May 5:       | Building Golems Today, Part 2 – Getting Real about Artificial Intelligence |



# Community Menorah Lighting



**Sunday December 10th time 4:30pm**

Gather with family and friends to celebrate  
the 4th night of Chanukah at  
Congregation B'nai Jacob  
Starr & Manavon Street, Phoenixville PA 19460

Ceremonial lighting of a large outdoor menorah.  
Refreshments will be provided.



# "We'll see you at the movies!"

- Sign-off to the review show  
*At The Movies* by Roger Ebert z"l and Gene Siskel

## Movie Discussion Night at CBJ:

### *You Are So Not Invited To My Bat Mitzvah*

If you can, watch the movie beforehand on Netflix

Whether you're able to watch it or not, please join us for a discussion of this 2023 depiction of preparing to become a Jewish adult (while still in middle school). With all of its peer pressure, it's "keeping up with the Joneses," and some serious consideration about what the deeper meaning of it all is.

**At our Friday night *Kabbalat Shabbat* service**

## **December 15, 2023 at 7:30 PM**



## FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

### Sunday: Pick Up at Posted Times

December 17, 2023 10:30-10:45 AM  
January 14, 2024 10:30-10:45 AM  
February 11, 2024 10:30-10:45 AM  
March 10, 2024 11:30-11:45 AM  
April 7, 2024 10:30-10:45 AM  
May 5, 2024 11:30-11:45 AM  
June 2, 2024 10:30-10:45 AM



CBJ has partnered with the Jewish Relief Agency (JRA) and PACS to create a network for delivering groceries to resource challenged households in the Phoenixville Area one Sunday a month. We are now delivering to over 40 households in the area. **In order to make this program as successful as possible, we need your help delivering boxes!** It's a small commitment with a big impact.

All congregants are welcome to participate in this wonderful mitzvah delivering boxes to our neighbors in need!

We are currently looking for additional “back up drivers” to cover for regular drivers when they are out.

To volunteer or for more information, please contact Ruth Yeiser at [ryeiser@alumni.upenn.edu](mailto:ryeiser@alumni.upenn.edu)

## NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

CBJ University is hosting an item drive to educate us about and help local organizations fulfill their Wish Lists.

Start collecting items and keep an eye out for boxes in the lobby starting in  
**DECEMBER**

Our Religious School students will learn about each organization and then sort and package up the items for delivery on

**January 21, 2024 10:30am**

Students will have boxes in their classrooms as well.

### The Organizations and their Wish Lists

**Phoenixville Area Community Services –**

<https://www.pacsphx.org/pacs-hot-list>

**Main Line Animal Rescue –**

[https://www.mlar.org/media/1670/mlar\\_wishlist.pdf](https://www.mlar.org/media/1670/mlar_wishlist.pdf)

**Mitzvah Circle –**

<https://mitzvahcircle.org/donate-items/>

**Ann's Heart –**

<https://www.annsheart.org/>

<https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/3O6ASU68P5L3D>

Sponsored by Congregation B'nai Jacob University

Our goal is to offer rich lifelong learning experiences to all within CBJ and the greater community through programs informed by Jewish values and presented in an atmosphere of fairness, balance, and respect.

### The Organizations and their Wish Lists

**Phoenixville Area Community Services –** Canned foods (no glass), baby products, toiletries, and cleaners

**Main Line Animal Rescue –** Dog treats, canned cat food, pet toys, cleaning supplies

**Mitzvah Circle –** Gently used clothing, books, toys, shoes. New only: socks and underwear, school supplies, period supplies, hygiene items, hats, gloves, and scarves

**Ann's Heart –** Gift cards in small denominations (\$10/\$20) to ACME, GIANT, WAWA, 7-Eleven, Redner's, Dunkin', McDonald's, etc., Men's and women's deodorant, underwear (new and in packaging), all sizes plain t-shirts (new and in packaging), all sizes plain sweatpants (new and in packaging), single serve instant mac n' cheese, granola bars, crackers, and simple snacks (gold fish, etc.)

## DONATIONS

### **Congregation B'nai Jacob**

Jeffrey and Bonnie Blank in honor of Hal Katz's birthday

Brad and Sharon Cooper in memory of Brad's beloved father, Stanton Cooper

Arlene Fickler with thanks to Sandy Katz and family for your welcome at Neilah services on Yom Kippur

Morris and Eleanor Schimmel in memory of Gil & Hermine Liss

Lori and Mark Snow in memory of Alan Hark's father, Irving Hark

Lori and Mark Snow in honor of Larry Liss chanting the Haftorah from his bar mitzvah

Lori and Mark Snow in memory of Dr. Bernard Robbins

Lori and Mark Snow in honor of Samantha Sigafos becoming a bat mitzvah

Paul and Robyn Forbes Drucker in memory of Paul's beloved father, Arthur Drucker

Paul and Robyn Forbes Drucker in memory of Paul's beloved brother, Henry Drucker

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Linda and Michael Salsburg in memory of Michael's beloved father, David Salsburg

Linda and Michael Salsburg in memory of Michael's beloved brother, Danny Salsburg

Ken Kulick in memory of beloved grandfather, Benjamin Kulick

Brad and Sharon Cooper in memory of Brad's beloved mother, Diane Arlene Cooper

## SPONSOR AN ONEG

### **Have something to celebrate?**

Come celebrate with your CBJ family by sponsoring an Oneg on Friday nights and/or a Kiddush snack on Saturdays after services. We make it easy - contact Adrienne at 484-318-3385 (cell) or [burnsao@gmail.com](mailto:burnsao@gmail.com) for details.

### **Seeking all CBJ foodies!**

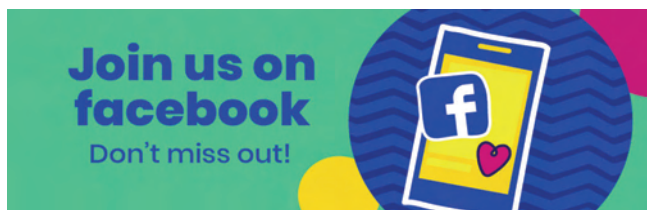
Come schmooze, nosh and help out with Synagogue functions! I need helping hands to set up Onegs and kiddushes, as well as other occasions, throughout the year. If you can give a little time, contact Adrienne at 484-318-3385 (cell) or [burnsao@gmail.com](mailto:burnsao@gmail.com) for details.

## CBJ Social Media

Use CBJ's Social Media (Facebook, CBJ website) to announce your events, special occasions etc.

Contact Seth Loux - [seth@louxfamily.com](mailto:seth@louxfamily.com) and Jerry Weiss - [mjimweiss7@gmail.com](mailto:mjimweiss7@gmail.com)

for the website and/or Lorraine Schur - [LSCHUR116@gmail.com](mailto:LSCHUR116@gmail.com) and Jerry Weiss - [mjimweiss7@gmail.com](mailto:mjimweiss7@gmail.com) for Facebook.



**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CBJGroup>**



## DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS



### Birthday Wishes

1	Mia Sigafoos	23	Zachary Rosenfeld
3	Linda Salsburg	23	Dylan Paster
4	Jerry Neumann	24	Caleb Paster
6	Rabbi Jeff Sultar	25	Cara Baskin
6	Ricki Goodstein	26	Mony Harbon
7	Arnold Tucker	27	Phoebe Zavod
7	David Weinstock	28	Katherine Ludwig
9	Aiden Bailey	29	Levi Snow
12	Juan Borla	30	Shirley Neumann
17	Mike Gabbert	31	Donna Rothstein
18	Lee Berger	31	Zach Schultz
18	Isaac Brainsky	31	Bill Schultz
19	Gerald Mandlowitz		
20	Andrew Valenci		



1	Paul & Myra Segal
12	Paul Drucker & Robyn Forbes

## DECEMBER YAHRZEIT

<u>December</u>	<u>Hebrew Month</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Honoree</u>
1	KISLEV	18	Mary Stango
4	KISLEV	21	Joseph David Tomar
5	KISLEV	22	Reba Azoff
5	KISLEV	22	Debra M Koushel
6	KISLEV	23	Nathan Forbes
8	KISLEV	25	Sulamita Brainsky
8	KISLEV	25	Pearl Volinsky Solomon
8	KISLEV	25	Pauline Nathan
8	KISLEV	25	Howard Koller
9	KISLEV	26	Veronica Hurwitz
11	KISLEV	28	Reta Hannah Siegel
11	KISLEV	28	Fannie Marshall
12	KISLEV	29	Ray Schwartz
12	KISLEV	29	Lillian Baer Brink
12	KISLEV	29	Betsey Robin
13	TEVET	1	Louis Eisdorfer
14	TEVET	2	Gerson Epstein
15	TEVET	3	Gilbert Liss
15	TEVET	3	Hyman Tucker
16	TEVET	4	Rose Hotkin
16	TEVET	4	Lois Goldberg
17	TEVET	5	Lillian Phillips
17	TEVET	5	Semyon Salzberg
18	TEVET	6	Barry Sankey
18	TEVET	6	Marvin Green
19	TEVET	7	Paul Rogers
19	TEVET	7	Muriel Perlman
20	TEVET	8	Susan Kaimowitz
20	TEVET	8	Adolph Ehrenkranz
20	TEVET	8	Harold Geyer
22	TEVET	10	Morris Louis Stoltz
22	TEVET	10	Betty Gropper
23	TEVET	11	William Satinsky
23	TEVET	11	Harold Strauss
23	TEVET	11	Albert Goldberg
24	TEVET	12	Blanche Ellen Schiffman
24	TEVET	12	Ilse Goldsmith
25	TEVET	13	Estelle Silver
26	TEVET	14	Hillard Jaffe
27	TEVET	15	Jacob Siegel
28	TEVET	16	Frances Gordon
28	TEVET	16	Esther Flexir
29	TEVET	17	Sarra Feldleyfer
29	TEVET	17	Theodore Fair
29	TEVET	17	Michael Segal
29	TEVET	17	Eva Eisenberg
30	TEVET	18	Esther Magrill
30	TEVET	18	Faye Director
31	TEVET	19	Morris Jenkins
31	TEVET	19	David Siegel
31	TEVET	19	Lillian Cohen

## THE TREE OF LIFE

In Judaism, the "Tree of Life" often symbolizes the wisdom of the Torah. In Proverbs it says: "Its ways are ways of pleasantness, and all its paths are peace. It is a tree of life for those who grasp it, and those who draw near it are fortunate." Laws and customs connected with trees permeate the Bible and Talmud, providing an ethical basis underlying human relationships (tithing and charity) and the environment (ecology).

We have a beautiful Tree of life sculpture as you enter our main lobby on the right hand wall. Stop a minute next time you are in the building and look at the names and memories permanently ensconced there- most are happy memories- milestone events like b'nai mitzvahs, marriages and appreciations for life-long friends.

You will see momentous occasions like 25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries and 80<sup>th</sup> or "special" birthdays commemorated on the tree. Other leaves document continuity celebrations for our congregation like births of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Testimonials of generous service to our congregation and other individuals are written in its' boughs.

It tells a story of a community- our community- one we can celebrate and continue to tell going forward.

This is a great time to purchase one and add to our legacy. Let this Tree of Life bring our congregation both physical and spiritual sustenance for the years to come.

To purchase a leaf, contact Carol Actor ([cffactor@verizon.net](mailto:cffactor@verizon.net)). Leaves are \$150 each.

## Board of Directors

### Executive Committee

Mark Snow, President  
Jerry Weiss, First Vice President  
Andy Baskin, MD, Second Vice President  
Mary Jane Weiss, Third Vice President  
Larry Liss, Treasurer  
Kenneth Kulick, Financial Secretary  
Sheli James, Recording Secretary  
Ellie Cantor, Corresponding Secretary  
Charles Epstein, Security Officer  
Eric Miller, Chairman of Board of Trustees  
Rabbi Jeff Sultar, ex officio

### Committee Chairs

Sandy Stone, Religious Life/Memorial Plaques  
Chuck Epstein, House and Grounds  
Jerry Neumann, Chevra Kadisha  
Adrienne Burns, Kitchen/Kashrut–  
Carol Actor, Tree of Life  
Fred Liss, Scholarship  
Kathy Koller, Membership  
Lorraine Schur, Public Relations and Social  
Media  
Lee Berger, Visitation  
Jennifer Ford-Bey, Education  
Joel Eisner, MD, Mark Real, MD &  
Mike Trachtenberg, Major Gifts

5784  
2023

# December

kislev  
tevet



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>NOVEMBER</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p><b>JANUARY</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>				<p><b>1</b> 18 kislev 6:30 pm Community Shabbat - Potluck Shabbat Dinner with Family Friendly Service</p>	<p><b>2</b> 19 kislev 9:30 am Service</p>
<p><b>3</b> 20 kislev 8:30 am - 1:30 pm CBJ 16th Annual Blood Drive 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Sisterhood Holiday Gift Shop</p>	<p><b>4</b> 21 kislev</p>	<p><b>5</b> 22 kislev</p>	<p><b>6</b> 23 kislev</p>	<p><b>7</b> 24 kislev Light First Candle EREV HANUKKAH</p>	<p><b>8</b> 25 kislev 7:30 pm Service</p>	<p><b>9</b> 26 kislev 9:30 am Service Vayeshlev HANUKKAH</p>
<p><b>10</b> 27 kislev 9 am-1 pm Gift Shop 10:00 am Adult Ed Class 4:30 pm CBJ Hanukkah Lighting</p>	<p><b>11</b> 28 kislev</p>	<p><b>12</b> 29 kislev</p>	<p><b>13</b> 1 tevet 7:00 pm Rosh Chodesh Gathering - CBJ library</p>	<p><b>14</b> 2 tevet</p>	<p><b>15</b> 3 tevet 7:30 pm Service Birthday/Anniv Shabbat w/ Ice Cream Sundae Orneg</p>	<p><b>16</b> 4 tevet 9:30 am Service</p>
<p><b>17</b> 5 tevet 10:30 am-Tikkun Olam/Social Action/ JRA/CBJ/PACS Food Distribution Pick Up</p>	<p><b>18</b> 6 tevet</p>	<p><b>19</b> 7 tevet</p>	<p><b>20</b> 8 tevet Executive Committee/then 7:15 pm Minyan, followed by Board Meeting</p>	<p><b>21</b> 9 tevet</p>	<p><b>22</b> 10 tevet 7:30 pm Service</p>	<p><b>23</b> 11 tevet 9:30 am Service</p>
<p><b>24</b> 12 tevet NO Religious School</p>	<p><b>25</b> 13 tevet</p>	<p><b>26</b> 14 tevet</p>	<p><b>27</b> 15 tevet</p>	<p><b>28</b> 16 tevet</p>	<p><b>29</b> 17 tevet FAST OF 10TH OF TEVET</p>	<p><b>30</b> 18 tevet Vayigash</p>
<p><b>31</b> 19 tevet NO Religious School</p>	<p>CHRISTMAS DAY</p>					<p><b>Vayechi</b></p>



## TO MAKE DONATIONS

Congregation B'nai Jacob thanks you for your very generous contributions throughout the year. In keeping with the tradition of *tzedakah*, you may make a donation to commemorate any occasion.

This page is for your convenience to facilitate the transaction. When making your contribution, please specify to which of the following funds you wish to donate. (A minimum contribution of \$10 per acknowledgement) You may wish to save this page for future use.

**CBJ Security System - Fund** security enhancements and protection for the congregation

**General Operating Account** - supports the day to day operation of the Synagogue

**Capital Fund** - supports projects to maintain, enhance and beautify the Synagogue's building and facilities

**High Holiday Appeal** - annual fund raising campaign to support ongoing synagogue operations

**Oneg/Kiddish Fund** - donation go into the General Fund to support the purchase of refreshments after Shabbat services

**Prayer Book Fund** - any amount appreciated (\$35 donation for label of acknowledgement in prayer book – siddur, machzor, or chumash)

**Louis & Sadie Liss Scholarship Fund** - provides scholarships for children for the Passport to Israel program and other enriching Jewish experiences (\$18 minimum donation)

**B'nai Jacob Cemetery Association** - for the upkeep of the cemetery

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund** - for special uses as designated by the Rabbi

**Sisterhood General Fund** - for synagogue improvement projects (*please make check payable to "CBJ Sisterhood"*)

**Pinkus Stern Torah Restoration Fund** - for the repair of the Torah Scrolls, to purchase additional Torah Scrolls, and to enhance the ark and bimah

Please send to: **Congregation B'nai Jacob**  
**P.O. Box 461, Phoenixville, PA 19460**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The enclosed contribution is to the \_\_\_\_\_ Fund

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Or

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Please acknowledge to: Recipient's Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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\*\*\* **All contributions are listed in the Hakol unless checked here.** ☐



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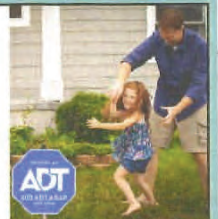
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