

COMMUNITY SHABBAT IS COMING!



Friday, May 3rd
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





FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Sunday: Pick Up at Posted Times

May 5, 2024 11:30-11:45 AM
June 2, 2024 10:30-10:45 AM
July 14, 2024 10:30-10:45 AM
August 11, 2024 10:30-10:45 AM
September 15, 2024 10:30-10:45 AM
October 20, 2024 10:30-10:45 AM
November 17, 2024 10:30-10:45 AM
December 15, 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. We especially need back-up drivers during the summer months.

To volunteer or for more information, please contact Ruth Yeiser at ryeiser@alumni.upenn.edu

Does a Golem Count in a Minyan?

(And Other 21st 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 20th 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)

8. May 5: Building Golems Today, Part 2 – Getting Real about Artificial Intelligence

What Do You Want to Learn Next?

Beginning in May, we begin plotting out our programs for the coming year. This planning includes the adult education classes that I offer each month. I have so, so many different ideas for things I'd like to learn with you.

For example, there are a number of new books out written by friends and colleagues that I've been meaning to get to, such as Rabbi Michael Strassfeld's *Judaism Disrupted: A Spiritual Manifesto for the 21st Century*. And Rabbi Shai Held's *Judaism Is About Love: Recovering the Heart of Jewish Life*. And Rabbi Toba Spitzer's *God Is Here: Reimagining the Divine*. I've also been chomping at the bit to dive into a book from a year or two back called *The New Jewish Canon: Ideas & Debates 1980-2015*, edited by Rabbi Yehuda Kurtzer and Claire Sufrin.

I'm glad to pick selections from some of the above, or from other ideas that will inevitably come, but before anything gets set in stone, I'd love to hear from you the answer to some of these questions:

- 1- What interests you most in Judaism, either that you'd don't know anything about or do but would like to learn about in more depth?
- 2- What questions about Judaism have you had for the longest time?
- 3- What's confused you the most about Jewish traditions, or practices, or teachings?
- 4- What's troubling you most about Judaism in your own spiritual journey?
- 5- Do any of the books/topics listed above excite you? Or would drive you away?
- 6- In short, what do you want to learn next? And most?

It doesn't matter how big or how small your questions might be, or how many you have. Just send them along. Perhaps it, or they, would be enough for a single class. Perhaps for several. Perhaps for an entire year. And maybe if it doesn't require so much time, then we can feature it as the teaching in a *Shabbat* service (that we're sure you can be there for).

In short, what do you want to learn next?

Please send me an email with any responses, to rabbi@congbj.org

And I look forward to learning with you next year!

Rabbi Jeff Sultar

DONATIONS

B'nai Jacob Cemetery

Carol Actor and Mitchel Kling in memory of Jerry Weiss's beloved sister, Elaine Ginsburg

Capital Fund

Andy and Dawn Baskin in memory of Lori Snow's beloved father, Dr. Harold Veloric

Andy and Dawn Baskin in memory of Jerry Weiss's beloved sister, Elaine Ginsburg

Andy and Dawn Baskin in memory of Jerry Weiss's beloved sister, Helen Spector

Malamati & Bill Fleisher in memory of Bill's beloved father, Israel Fleisher

Congregation B'nai Jacob

Ellie Cantor in memory of Jerry Weiss's sister, Elaine Ginsburg

Lori and Mark Snow in memory of Jerry Weiss's beloved sister, Elaine Ginsburg

Barbara and Allan Cohen in memory of Barbara's beloved mother, Berte Zatuchni

High Holiday Prayer Book

Marv and Connie Silverman in memory of Marv's beloved mother, Esther Lee Silverman

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Alan Verbit in memory of beloved brother, Stanley Verbit

Sisterhood

Lori & Mark Snow for thank you for the support & Funeral luncheon after the loss of Lori's father, Dr. Harold Veloric.



MAY CELEBRATIONS



Birthday Wishes

1	Linda Loux	11	Bradley Gargiulo
2	Sheli James	14	Jane Corbman
2	Gerald Bell	17	Adin Kane
3	Jeffrey Anton	21	Amy Siegel
4	Rhoda Goldberg	21	Tracey Rich
4	Daniel Berger	23	Janice Wagman
4	Zeke Katz Simon	24	Fyllis Etter
5	Gabriel Walker	24	Emily Valenci
6	Jasen Walker	25	Carson Goodman
6	Eriko Liebers	25	Andrew Baskin
8	Sandy Katz	25	David Levin
9	Bruce Fegan		



3	Myla Kaplan & Gideon Schreiber
17	Judy & Jonathan Lemco
23	Bekah Starr & Michael O'Brien
25	David and Leslie Levin
27	Deborah & Mark Marotta

MAY YAHRZEIT

<u>May</u>	<u>Hebrew Month</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Honoree</u>
1	NISAN	23	Lester Nathan
1	NISAN	23	Dorothy Mandell
2	NISAN	24	Harris Weinstock
4	NISAN	26	Shirley Stone
4	NISAN	26	Werner Dannhauser
5	NISAN	27	David Greenstein
6	NISAN	28	Avrom Sugarman
6	NISAN	28	Lena Neumann
8	NISAN	30	Raymond Siegel
11	IYAR	3	Juliet Cooke
12	IYAR	4	Roselynde Steinig
12	IYAR	4	Max Shusterman
14	IYAR	6	Isidore Yager
15	IYAR	7	Dora Buschler
15	IYAR	7	Max Zatuchni
16	IYAR	8	Shirley P. Rogers
16	IYAR	8	Isadore Gordon
16	IYAR	8	Steve Asher
18	IYAR	10	Pierce Harriman Zavod
18	IYAR	10	Estelle Zeldin
18	IYAR	10	Rabbi Moses Etter
19	IYAR	11	Morris Sampson
19	IYAR	11	Sadie Liss
20	IYAR	12	Nettie Teitelbaum
20	IYAR	12	Martin Raubfogel
21	IYAR	13	Stella Phillips
21	IYAR	13	Bernath Berger
21	IYAR	13	Neil Howard Stone
21	IYAR	13	Michael Cassic
22	IYAR	14	Terry Steen
22	IYAR	14	William Levin
22	IYAR	14	Oscar Forster
22	IYAR	14	Bernard Goldberg
24	IYAR	16	Rhea Asher
28	IYAR	20	Israel Meil
28	IYAR	20	Grace Garfield Forbes
28	IYAR	20	Sidney Goldstein
28	IYAR	20	Beatrice Bernstein
29	IYAR	21	Pearl Magrill
29	IYAR	21	Maurice Asher
30	IYAR	22	Martin Farkas
30	IYAR	22	Anita Abowitz
31	IYAR	23	Joseph Cantor
31	IYAR	23	Stanley Verbit

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 25th and 50th wedding anniversaries and 80th 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). Leaves are \$150 each.

Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Mark Snow, President
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Andy Baskin, MD, Second Vice President
Mary Jane Weiss, Third Vice President
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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

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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
2024

May

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>APRIL 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>JUNE 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</p>		<p>1 23 nisan</p>	<p>2 24 nisan</p>	<p>3 25 nisan</p> <p>6:30 pm Community Shabbat - Potluck Shabbat Dinner w/ Family Friendly Service: CBU U Speaker: Madelyn Anton</p>	<p>4 26 nisan</p> <p>9:30 am Service - Kane Baby Naming</p> <p><i>Achel Mot</i></p>
<p>5 27 nisan</p> <p>8:00-9:30 am Cemetery Spruce Up Day 10:00 am Rabbi Sultar's Adult Ed Class 11:30 am- JRA/CBU/PACS Food Distribution Pick Up</p>	<p>6 28 nisan</p> <p>YOM HASHOAH</p>	<p>7 29 nisan</p>	<p>8 30 nisan</p> <p>7:00 pm - Rosh Chodesh Circle - CBU Library</p> <p>ROSH CHODESH</p>	<p>9 1 iyar</p> <p>7:30 pm Service Birthday/Aniv Shabbat w/ Ice Cream Sundae Oneg</p>	<p>10 2 iyar</p> <p>7:30 pm Service - Celebrating Israel</p>	<p>11 3 iyar</p> <p>9:30 am Service</p> <p><i>Kodeshm</i></p>
<p>12 4 iyar</p> <p>NO Religious School</p>	<p>13 5 iyar</p> <p>YOM HASHOAH</p>	<p>14 6 iyar</p>	<p>15 7 iyar</p> <p>Executive Committee/An 7:15 pm Miryan, followed by Board Meeting</p> <p>ROSH CHODESH</p>	<p>16 8 iyar</p>	<p>17 9 iyar</p> <p>7:30 pm Service - Celebrating Israel</p>	<p>18 10 iyar</p> <p>9:30 am Service</p> <p><i>Emor</i></p>
<p>19 11 iyar</p> <p>MOTHER'S DAY</p> <p>9:00-11:00 am Cemetery Book Burial Day</p> <p>Last Day of Religious School</p>	<p>20 12 iyar</p> <p>YOM HAZIKARON</p>	<p>21 13 iyar</p> <p>YOM HA'ATZMAUT</p>	<p>22 14 iyar</p>	<p>23 15 iyar</p>	<p>24 16 iyar</p> <p>7:30 pm Service - Memorial Day Weekend</p>	<p>25 17 iyar</p> <p>9:30 am Service</p> <p><i>Behar</i></p>
<p>26 18 iyar</p> <p>LAG B'AVOMER</p>	<p>27 19 iyar</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>MEMORIAL DAY</p>	<p>28 20 iyar</p>	<p>29 21 iyar</p>	<p>30 22 iyar</p>	<p>31 23 iyar</p> <p>Office Closed 7:30 pm Service - Celebrating Jerusalem</p>	

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): _____

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

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