



## THE TENT

Congregation Beth Jacob's Monthly Newsletter  
December, 2025

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### CBJ Calendar of Upcoming Events:

December 4, 8:00 pm: The Horseshoe Theory: Antisemitism on the Far-left and Far-right and How it's Impacting the Generational Divide on Zoom. Registration required. See the article for details and registration link.

December 5: Erev Shabbat Service with Rachmiel (Hybrid) **Please note: This service will take place at 7 pm at the Rabbi's home due to parking issues downtown that evening. The service will be preceded by a pre-neg at 6 pm. What is a pre-neg? A pre-neg is wine and hot appetizers prior to the start of services. Please RSVP to obtain the address and to help us ensure there is enough food at the pre-neg.** Rachmiel will be our guest soloist for this special service. [rsvp@cbjpymouth.org](mailto:rsvp@cbjpymouth.org)

The Pre-neg will be sponsored by Sandy & Hyman Spekman

December 8, 7:00 pm: Sisterhood Meeting (by Zoom)

December 12: Family Chanukah Shabbat Service and Chanukah Latke Dinner at The Loring Center (See the article for details and registration link.)

6:00 pm: Service

7:00 pm: Dinner

Sunday, December 14, 5:30 pm - Chanukah begins! Chanukah Lighting and Gelt Drop at Plymouth Town Green! Come join us as we light the first candle on our Menorah!

December 18, 1:00-3:30 pm: Sisterhood Games Day at the Plymouth Public Library (see the article for details and to register!)

December 19, 7:00 pm: Erev Shabbat Service (by Zoom only)

December 27, 10:00 am - Saturday morning Shabbat service led by Rabbi Jan Katzew and Cantor Lanie Katzew, followed by Torah Study and bagel brunch. Bagels and spread provided by Sisterhood. (This replaces the Shabbat evening service on December 26th.)

**[To see the complete CBJ Calendar on our website, click here.](#)**

**Plymouth's Annual Christmas Tree and Menorah Lighting Schedule**  
**Friday, December 5th, 6:00 pm**  
**At Plymouth Town Hall Green**



The Town of Plymouth's annual Christmas Tree and Menorah lighting ceremony is scheduled for Friday, December 5th, on the Town Hall Green. The event will feature holiday cheer and music.

Date: Friday, December 5th, Menorah Lighting: 6:00 pm

Location: Town Hall Green

Event Details: The ceremony will light both the town tree and the menorah and will include holiday music. **(Chanukah does not start until sundown on December 14th)**

**And Then Come to Our Menorah Lighting and Gelt Drop**  
**on Sunday, December 14th at 5:30 pm**  
**At Plymouth Town Hall Green!**

Who can get enough of Chanukah (or chocolate Chanukah gelt?) See the photos from last year's Gelt Drop.









# Plymouth's Town Tree Lighting

Friday Dec. 5th • Town Hall Green

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## Schedule of Events

**4:30 - 8pm** Music on the Green:  
Plymouth Public Schools, Road Back Home  
band, and special guest Trilium Jazz

**6pm** Santa Arrives,  
Tree and Menorah Lighting

**6:30pm** Visit Santa at the Spire!  
Hot Cocoa, Cookie Decorating, and  
other Fun Family Happenings

Court St. will be closed between  
North St. and Howland St.  
Learn about travel logistics at:

[plymouthdowntownwaterfront.org](http://plymouthdowntownwaterfront.org)

Please Note: all parking lots will  
be accessible, but the lot directly behind  
Town Hall's doors will be reserved for  
those with handicap placards.





# IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE CHANUKAH!

Join CBJ for a family Shabbat service followed by a delicious latke dinner.

**FRIDAY, DEC 12**

**LORING CENTER  
384 COURT STREET  
PLYMOUTH, MA**

Family Shabbat Service: 6:00PM

Latke Dinner 7:00PM

Members: \$25 adult

Children 12 and under: \$12

Non-members: \$30 adult

Children 12 and under: \$18

**GAMES**

**ACTIVITIES**

**RAFFLE**



To register, scan QR Code:

or visit: <https://cbj-chanukah-latke-dinner-2025.cheddarup.com>

[www.cbjplymouth.org](http://www.cbjplymouth.org)

**SIGN UP NOW!!**

Here is the link to register:

<https://my.cheddarup.com/c/cbj-chanukah-latke-dinner-2025/items>



## **Hanukkah Begins on December 14th!**

Hanukkah, one of the most widely observed Jewish holidays, is a festive eight-day celebration that for many people falls during the darkest, coldest season of the year. Also called the Festival of Lights, the holiday brings light, joy, and warmth to our homes and communities as we celebrate with candles, food, family, and friends. Light comes literally, with the lighting of an additional candle each day, and metaphorically, through a newer emphasis on charitable donations and a commitment to tikkun olam during the holiday. Hanukkah (alternately spelled Chanukah), meaning "dedication" in Hebrew, commemorates the victory of a small group of Jewish rebels (led by Judah Maccabee and his brothers, collectively known as "the Maccabees") over the armies of Syria in 165 B.C.E. and the subsequent liberation and "rededication" of the Temple in Jerusalem. Modern celebrations of Hanukkah focus on family and friends and include the lighting of the Hanukkah menorah (also called a hanukkiyah); singing and playing special songs and games (dreidel); and eating foods prepared in oil including latkes, sufganiyot, bimuelos (fried dough puffs) and keftes de prasas (leek patties).

### **How to Say the Blessings:**

<https://reformjudaism.org/beliefs-practices/prayers-blessings/hanukkah-blessings>



YouTube - How to light the menorah (Which is the right direction to load the candles into the menorah? Should we light the candles from right to left or from left to right? Who can remember???) Find out here!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nd5RI0N-ijI>



To read a very interesting story about how a Jewish immigrant revolutionized donuts (sufganiyot) in the U.S, [click here](#).



### **Customs - Playing Dreidel**

The word dreidel derives from a German word meaning “spinning top,” and is the toy used in a Hanukkah game adapted from an old German gambling game. (Historically, Hanukkah was one of the few times of the year when rabbis permitted games of chance.) The four sides of the top bear four Hebrew letters: nun, gimel, hey, and shin. Players begin by putting into a central pot or “kitty” a certain number of coins, foil-wrapped chocolate disks known as gelt, nuts, buttons or other small objects. Each player in turn spins the dreidel and proceeds as follows:

- נ nun – take nothing
- ג gimel – take everything
- ה hei – take half
- ש shin – put one in

Over time, the letters on the dreidel were reinterpreted to stand for the first letter of each word in the Hebrew statement, “Neis gadol hayah sham,” which means “A great miracle happened there” and refers to the defeat of the Syrian army and the re-dedication of the Temple. In Israel, one letter on the dreidel differs from those used in the rest of the world. The shin has been replaced with a pey, transforming the Hebrew statement into “Neis gadol hayah po,” which means “A great miracle happened here.”





### **A Terrific Latke Shortcut!**

Who doesn't enjoy sitting down to dinner with a plate full of hot, crispy potato latkes? But it's a busy time of the year, and grating the potatoes can be time-consuming.

It has become popular for some people to use frozen Oreida shredded hash browns for faster latke making, skipping the need to grate the potatoes.

A word of caution: If you take advantage of this shortcut, you must defrost the potatoes and then remove the extra liquid as you do with regular potatoes. A salad spinner is a great way to get this done. Then you can add the onions and other ingredients to make the batter. The less water you use, the less splattering there will be when frying.

This genius tip was provided by Barbara Aharoni. Thank you, Barbara!



## REFLECTIONS FROM THE RABBI



With Christmas and Hanukkah occurring in close time proximity to one another it is tempting to wish people “Happy Holidays”, “Season’s Greetings”, or to utter the more creative, newer greeting of “Merry Chrismukkah”. With each passing year, advertisements, conversations, and new greeting cards, get more emboldened at blending together Hanukkah and Christmas as “the holidays.”

These so-called interfaith greeting cards include everything from a respectful one that pictures two cats sitting outside two windows; one wearing a Christmas hat and the other a yarmulke with a menorah inside one window and a Christmas tree inside the other to others which attempt to be humorous such as showing a Santa Claus lifting up his fur-trimmed cap to reveal a *kippah* as he says, “Shalom, or another depicting a Santa responding *Oy vey, you take the sleigh*,” after discovering Chanukah lasts eight days. These well-meaning mixed-message cards are an attempt at being inclusive. However, combining Hanukkah and Christmas, two very distinct and different holidays whether through greeting cards or actual observances does a great disservice to the unique messages and traditions of each. When we blend these holidays through actions like decorating a Christmas tree with Hanukkah ornaments, we negate the core religious meaning of each holiday.

As it becomes increasingly common to combine the observances of these holidays, there is a risk of losing the true significance of Hanukkah. Hanukkah celebrates our triumph over assimilation which makes it all the more ironic that in an effect to blend in with American society, it is getting absorbed into the Christian holiday which celebrates the birth and resurrection of Jesus as the messiah, the very event that caused the split between our two faiths. Key messages and lessons about Jewish identity and history are lost when we reframe Hanukkah as

the Jewish Christmas. Hanukkah celebrates overcoming persecution and forced assimilation. We take pride in a small but heroic group of our brethren who had the courage to rebel against their ancient Greek conquerors who had prohibited the practice of Judaism, the reading of Torah, and the praying in synagogues. Hanukkah celebrates our rebellion against adopting foreign practices to better fit in with other cultures and yet when we merge it with Christmas, we are doing what our forebears rebelled against. Similarly for Christians, the blending of Christmas with Hanukkah or New Year's Day or the undermining of Christian religious rituals in order to embrace a general atmosphere of commercialized celebrations for all risks diluting or losing the spiritual meaning of one of Christianity's most important and sacred events.

Both Hanukkah and Christmas have deep meanings and sacred religious rituals that deserve to be celebrated. Seeing each holiday for what it commemorates and acknowledging the distinctive beliefs of each while also recognizing the overlapping values of both faiths would be a far better and respectful way to celebrate and share with one another our histories. Respect for the faith of others, rather than diluting ritual meaning for the sake of trying to be like one another, is especially critical today amid rising antisemitism, religious persecution and the growing role of religious extremism in conflicts around the world.

The Talmud proclaims that a lighted menorah should be displayed toward a public thoroughfare, but that "in times of danger [i.e., persecution], one places it on the table [inside the home] and it is sufficient." Throughout various times and regions, Jewish people have been required to follow this guidance. We are lucky to live in a time when we can display our menorah proudly and publicly without fear. When the Vatican published its famous *Nostra Aetate* document in 1965, rejecting antisemitism and recognizing Jewish contributions to Christianity, it clarified its respect for our faith. As Jews, let us be respectful of our own beliefs and not shy away from them in an effort to not appear different.

For too many years and in too many places in the world our path to interfaith understanding and cooperation was bumpy and antisemitism's legacy still lingers. But understanding and respecting theological differences, rather than ignoring them or weaponizing them as a source of conflict, will promote respect and understanding between faiths. The future of humankind hinges on recognizing and taking pride in the uniqueness of each religion; and not further blending our respective traditions. Failing to appreciate our differences only feeds extremism and persecution. There are far too many examples of this occurring both historically and in our own lifetimes.

Whether it is the gradual eroding or the complete and sudden erasure of faith, rituals, or traditions, not appreciating one another's diversity is a dangerous path. That is why when a Jewish family wishes their Christian friends a "Merry Christmas" and their neighbors respond with "Happy Hanukkah", it is more than just pleasantry, it is a small but profound acknowledgement of each other's humanity, a recognition that our differences can coexist and even illuminate one another. At this season of the year let us remember that menorahs and Christmas trees each add their unique light to our shared world. They each stand for something sacred and valued, and they do not need one another: each can stand proudly alone, proclaiming the message for which they were intended, and as a beacon of hope and faith in God and humanity.



## Adult Education

"Social Justice in Our Texts" is a monthly, free, Zoom-based program exploring how our Jewish sacred texts speak to today's pressing social issues such as reproductive rights, climate change, racial justice, poverty, LGBTQ+ rights, and so much more. These classes are accessible, deeply rooted in Jewish values and focused on some of the most important issues of our time. **All of the sessions are free and open to anyone.** The classes are taught by our rabbis from across the liberal movements. Register at [laasok.org/current-offerings/#justice](https://laasok.org/current-offerings/#justice)

# Social Justice in our Texts

## Jewish Wisdom for Building a Better World

צדק

tzedek

justice

**A monthly 1-hour study session - free and open to all**

**Programs are Mondays at 3pm ET / Noon PT**

 <p><b>Human Rights, Jewish Roots</b> Rabbi Gabriel Kanter-Webber September 15, 2025</p>	 <p><b>Prophetic Voices Then and Now</b> Rabbi Barbara Symons October 20, 2025</p>
 <p><b>Bodily Autonomy &amp; Reproductive Rights</b> Rabbi Cookie Lea Olshein November 17, 2025</p>	 <p><b>Repairing the World: Tikkun Olam as a Mystical Praxis</b> Rabbi Leah Moser December 8, 2025</p>
 <p><b>The Torah of Reparations</b> Jordan Berg Powers January 12, 2026</p>	 <p><b>Jewish Responses to Climate Change</b> Rabbi Glenn Jacob February 2, 2026</p>
 <p><b>Speaking Up to Power: Learning From Esther</b> Rabbi Laura Rappaport March 2, 2026</p>	 <p><b>What We Leave for the Poor</b> Rabbi Barry Block April 20, 2026</p>
 <p><b>The Right to Live, The Right to Die</b> Rabbi Sylvia Rothschild May 11, 2026</p>	 <p><b>Protecting LGBTQ+ Rights: A Jewish View</b> Rabbi Micah Buck June 8, 2026</p>



LAASOK  
לעסוק  
SACRED TEXTS  
MODERN MEANING



keshet  
קשת



TEMPLE  
SHOLOM  
KINDLING THE FLAME OF REFORM JUDAISM



Central Synagogue



Kirya  
מירב



Congregation  
Shir Chadash  
of the Hudson Valley



Congregation Ezer Mitzvah  
of the Hudson Valley

**The Next Program:**  
**Repairing the World: Tikkun Olam as a Mystical Praxis**  
**With Rabbi Leigh Moser**  
**Monday, December 8th at 3:00 pm ET**  
**Free and open to all, but registration is required.**  
[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)

Discover the spiritual roots of *Tikkun Olam* and how they can inspire our work in the world today. In this class, we'll explore passages from the *Zohar* alongside later kabbalistic and chassidic teachings, tracing how the mystical idea of cosmic repair evolved into a modern call for justice and compassion. Together, we'll uncover a rich tradition that links inner transformation with the healing of society.

# Repairing the World

## *Tikkun Olam as a Mystical Praxis*



**Monday, December 8**  
**3pm Eastern on Zoom**  
**Rabbi Leah Moser**

### Part of the “Social Justice in Our Texts” Series



This series is free and open to all. Register at [laasok.org/current-offerings/#justice](https://laasok.org/current-offerings/#justice)

### Oh No! Did You Miss the Bus?



Did you miss the presentation by Rabbi Cookie Lea Olstein on November 17th on Bodily Autonomy and Reproductive Rights? No worries! **Here is the recording:**

<https://youtu.be/48WjyQIRv3Y>

## **Introduction to Judaism Class Starting in January!**



Our Introduction to Judaism class will be co-taught by Rabbi Mills, along with rabbis from other small congregations. It will be available on Zoom on Wednesday or Thursday evenings from mid-January through May, from 7:30pm-9pm.

The cost to attend and the registration link will be sent at a later date. The cost for non-members will be applied toward membership dues. This course will be free for members of Congregation Beth Jacob who would like to learn more about Judaism.



**MASSACHUSETTS ANTISEMITISM SYNAGOGUE TASK FORCE AND  
FOUNDATION FOR THE DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACIES**

**PRESENT:**

**DR. BRANDY SHUFUTINSKY, Director of FDD's Program on Education  
and National Security**

**The Horseshoe Theory: Antisemitism on the Far-left and Far-right  
and How it's Impacting the Generational Divide  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025 at 8 PM EST by ZOOM**



**COMMUNITY PARTNERS,  
CAEF-CANADIAN ANTISEMITISM EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
HADASSAH NORTHEAST  
MATATHIAS PROJECT  
STANDWITHUS NEW ENGLAND  
TEMPLE BEH ISRAEL WALTHAM  
TEMPLE BETH SHALOM NEEDHAM  
TEMPLE EMANUEL-NEWTON  
TEMPLE EMETH-CHESTNUT HILL  
CONGREGATION BETH JACOB - PLYMOUTH**

**Registration link:**

**[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1eiRVdwf8-2YpekGBuDkurupBrpH1c4NVGOyARmSgY10/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1eiRVdwf8-2YpekGBuDkurupBrpH1c4NVGOyARmSgY10/viewform?edit_requested=true)**

## **BIOGRAPHY for Brandy Shufutinsky**



Brandy Shufutinsky serves as director of FDD's Program on Education and National Security. Prior to joining FDD, Brandy was director of education and community engagement at the North American Values Institute.

Brandy has been published in Newsweek, Jewish Journal, The Jerusalem Post, Sapir, White Rose Magazine, and JNS. She was a 2021 scholar-in-residence at the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy Oxford Summer Institute, where she worked to develop curriculum in critical antisemitism studies.

Brandy holds her doctorate in international and multicultural education from the University of San Francisco, her MSW from the University of Southern California, and her M.A. in international relations from the University.

## Beit Sefer News



Under the leadership of Rabbi Mills, CBJ's Religious School provides a program where students master the skills of Hebrew reading, learn the ritual prayers and songs that are integral to our religious services, learn about Jewish history and the lessons about Jewish values and ethics in the Torah - all taught in a creative way that engages them. Students have become comfortable and familiar with being on the Bimah and leading portions of Shabbat services long before their Bar or Bat Mitzvah ceremonies. Our new Beit Sefer school year for Kindergarten through 7th grade students began on Sunday, September 7th. **This year, these classes will meet from 9:30 am to 11:30 am.** Our theme for the year is Israel Extravaganza. This promises to be another creative and exciting year for our Religious School students! We welcome the enrollment of additional students into our Religious School; program. For additional information, please contact Devon Fernald at [devon.portney@gmail.com](mailto:devon.portney@gmail.com).

### CONGREGATION BETH JACOB 2025-2026 BEIT SEFER CALENDAR

September 7, 2025	1. The Founders (the Yishuv Period)
September 14, 2025	2. Overview of pre-1948 History
September 21, 2025	3. Rosh Hashana Lesson
September 28, 2025	4. Yom Kippur Lesson
October 5, 2025	5. Sukkot Lesson
October 12, 2025	NO SCHOOL: Indigenous People Day
October 19, 2025	6. Simchat Torah Lesson
October 26, 2025	7. The Fight for Independence
November 2, 2025	8. The Compromise: Knesset and the Gov't
November 9, 2025	9. The Early Year: Israel and its Neighbors
November 16, 2025	10. The Army
November 23, 2025	11. Kibbutzim and Moshavim
November 30, 2025	NO SCHOOL: Thanksgiving Weekend
December 7, 2025	12. Geography: Cities and Famous Places
December 14, 2025	13. Chanukah Lesson
December 21, 2025	NO SCHOOL: New Year's Break
December 28, 2025	NO SCHOOL: New Year's Break
January 4, 2026	14. Medot: Ashkenazi, Sephardi, Mizrahi
January 11, 2026	15. The Israeli Arab & the Palestinian Arab
January 18, 2026	NO SCHOOL: President's Day Weekend
January 25, 2026	16. Magic Carpet: the Ethiopians Arrive
February 1, 2026	17. Tu B'shvat Lesson
February 8, 2026	18. The Religious and the Secular
February 15, 2026	NO SCHOOL: Winter Break
February 22, 2026	NO SCHOOL: Winter Break
March 1, 2026	19. Purim Lesson
March 8, 2026	20. Foods of Israel
March 15, 2026	21. Culture: Music and Sports
March 22, 2026	22. Famous Modern Israelis
March 29, 2026	23. Passover Lesson
April 5, 2026	24. Israeli Tech: Israel's gifts to theX World
April 12, 2026	25. Yom Ha'atzmaut Lesson
April 19, 2026	NO SCHOOL: Spring Break
April 26, 2026	NO SCHOOL: Spring Break
May 3, 2025	26. Lag B'omer Lesson
May 10, 2025	NO SCHOOL: Mother's Day
May 17, 2025	27. Shavuot Lesson

### SPECIAL EVENTS

- ❖ **Saturday, September 13, 5:30 P.M.**  
Selichot on a Boat
- ❖ **Tuesday, September 23, 10 A.M.**  
Rosh Hashana Youth Service
- ❖ **Wednesday, October 1, 10 A.M.**  
Yom Kippur Youth Service
- ❖ **Friday, October 10, 5:00 P.M.**  
Beit Sefer Sukkot on the Farm
- ❖ **Friday, October 17, 6:00 P.M.**  
Family Simchat Torah Service
- ❖ **Friday, December 12, 6:00 P.M.\***  
Family Chanukah Dinner & Service  
\*Tentative
- ❖ **Friday, March 6, 7:00 P.M.**  
Family Purim Dinner & Service
- ❖ **Thursday, April 2, 5:30 P.M.**  
Second Night Passover Seder

To see the entire Beit Sefer Calendar for the year 2025-2026, [CLICK HERE](#).

December 7: Geography: Cities and Famous Places

December 14: Chanukah Lesson

December 21: No School - New Year's Break

December 28: No School - New Year's Break



## **Our Teen Talk Learning and Social Program for our Post-B'nai Mitzvah Students has Started!**



Teen talk is a joint learning and social program for our post-B'nai Mitzvah students (grades 8-12) that is a cooperative program between Congregation Beth Jacob and Cape Cod Synagogue in Hyannis and Falmouth Jewish Congregation. This program meets monthly on Sundays from 12:30 to 2:30 usually in a location in Sandwich which is equal distance for all 3 congregations. We will be discussing the Jewish view on mature topics that we cannot do at a younger age such as antisemitism or the Jewish view of afterlife as well as having the opportunity to meet and socialize with other Jewish teens in the area. The sessions will include lunch.

The highlight of each year will be a trip either to L'taken, the Reform movement's youth social justice training weekend in DC, to Jewish New York, or to follow in the footsteps of the Jews who impacted the Civil Rights Movement (a trip through key places in the deep south). This program also will facilitate going as a group to NFTY-NE (National Federation of Temple Youth-North East) social events in the Boston area.

Registration for this program is on the CBJ website under Beit Sefer. The cost of the program is \$100.

### **DATES FOR 2025-2026:**

December 14

January 11

February 8

March 8

April 12

May 17

**Are You in Your 20's or Early 30's?  
Looking for a Social Group to Meet Other Jewish Individuals in the  
Plymouth Area?  
CBJ Gen Z is For You!**



For all those in their 20's and early 30's, CBJ has started a new social group to help meet other Jewish individuals your age in the Plymouth area. Singles and couples are welcome, and significant others need not be Jewish. The first meeting was held on October 21st at 6:15 pm at Tree House Brewing in Sandwich. To be put on the email list of their activities please email Noa Mills at [noa.r.mills@gmail.com](mailto:noa.r.mills@gmail.com).



## **The Essential Prayers and Songs for Our Shabbat Evening Services**

To access a document with YouTube videos of the prayers and songs that we sing at our Shabbat evening services, [click here](#).



**Limud Torah/Torah Study Group  
with Rabbi Emeritus Lawrence Silverman  
Monday mornings, from 8:30-9:45 am**

**For updated information about meeting dates, please contact Rabbi Silverman at [rabbilawrence@gmail.com](mailto:rabbilawrence@gmail.com).**

To join the Zoom Meeting, click on the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2947234661?pwd=RVFTQmFFYXBVWHRJQ3RkeDhjTVptZz09>

Meeting ID: 294 723 4661, Passcode: 720299

## **Social Action Overnights of Hospitality November 30 - April 4**

CBJ is invited to participate with many of the Plymouth area churches in supporting **The Plymouth Taskforce to End Homelessness**. Starting on Sunday, November 30th, the Plymouth Taskforce to End Homelessness, in collaboration with the Father Bill's and Mainspring (FBMS) organization, will offer winter emergency shelter to 20-25 single individuals through Saturday, April 4th. The Taskforce needs folks to serve as Shelter Volunteers and Meal Providers. Shelter Volunteers commit to give one evening of their time from 4:45 to approximately 9:00 pm. They provide support to the FBMS staff. Meal Providers prepare meals at home to serve at the shelter. The shelter rotates weekly among three congregations beginning Sunday, November 30th through Saturday, April 4th - Christ Church, First Baptist Church and St Mary's and St. Joseph Collaborative at St Mary's Parish Center, using the fellowship halls. Orientation is provided.

- To sign up as a Shelter Volunteer or Meal Provider, go to <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/k4w5gd>. Slots for Meal Providers tend to fill up quickly.
- To review the Shelter Volunteer and Meal Provider guidelines, go to <https://plymouth-taskforce-homeless.org>
- Questions? Call Connie Melahoures, President of the Plymouth Taskforce to End Homelessness at 508.367.0516 or email [conmel@aol.com](mailto:conmel@aol.com)



**PLEASE HELP THE LOCAL PLYMOUTH IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY  
THROUGH THE NEW FORMED ACTION WITH NEIGHBORS GROUP  
a collaboration of our local houses of worship**

If you have a monetary donation, please make the check out out and mail it to:

Peace Abbey Foundation  
8 Town Square  
Plymouth, MA 02360

We are collecting-

- Gift cards to Walmart, Market Basket
- Food: Dried white rice, dried black beans, red beans, canned beans, Goya spices, garlic powder, paprika, canola oil, pasta, canned tomato products, bags of onions, garlic, Goya cookies.
- Monetary donations for rent, legal aide, utilities
- Baby products: Diapers- Size 1,4,5 and 6, wipes, baby wash, baby lotion
- Kids/adult Clothing: hats, gloves, winter coats- 2T, 5, 6 (boys and girls), teens (boys and girls), adults (women and men), socks men and women, boys and girls, babies (infant, 4 mos, 6 months to 2T)

**Together we CAN do what we cannot do apart.**

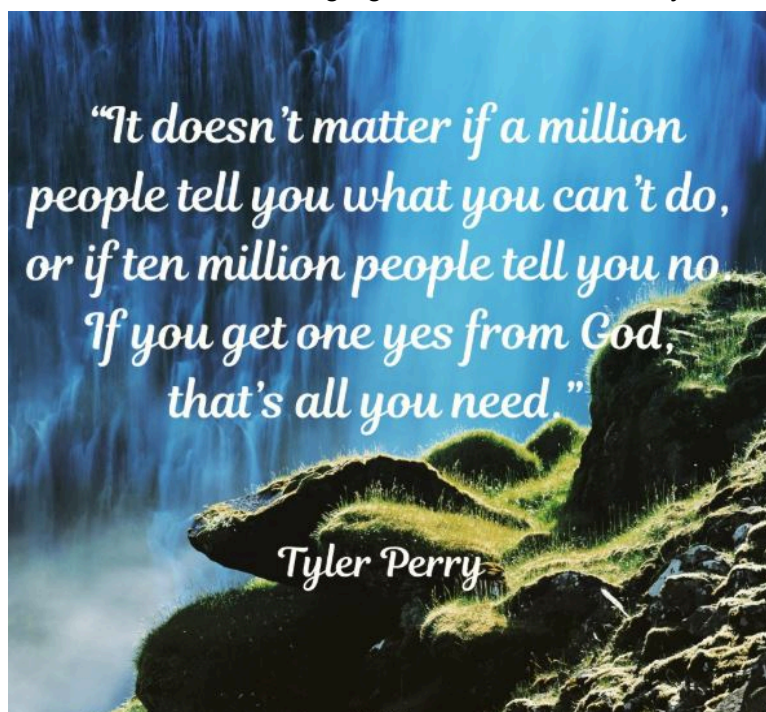




The search for CBJ's future new home is over! At the Congregational meeting held on September 16th, a majority of our membership voted to approve the signing of the Purchase & Sale for the land located at 279 Summer Street in Plymouth for the purpose of erecting a Morton-style steel building for our new synagogue. Our new home will be fully handicapped accessible, will offer adequate parking, will have space for us to hold social and education events, will provide an inviting environment for our Hebrew School students to meet and learn, and will have a kitchen that is large enough to accommodate congregational dinners. This new space will give us the opportunity to grow and flourish far into the future.

The Purchase & Sale (P&S) Agreements for both the sale of our present building and the purchase of the new property have been signed, and we have made our initial deposit. The full Engineering Report has been completed, and we will apply for the required Town building permits. We expect to close by the end of this year. The existing house on the property will be torn down, the land will be leveled, and we will hire an architect to design our new Morton-style steel building to be constructed on the site. Examples of Morton religious buildings can be seen at <https://mortonbuildings.com/projects/church>. The architectural renderings for the exterior and interior of our new building will be provided to the Congregation when they are available.

After the sale of our synagogue building at the end of December, many congregants have asked about where we will conduct our Shabbat services and Hebrew School classes. Our co-Presidents, Devon and Dianne, along with the CBJ Board, are working with a Plymouth church to share space in their building for a modest fee during our transition period. Updated information will be available in the Weekly Update as soon as arrangements have been finalized. Exciting times are ahead for Congregation Beth Jacob! Stay tuned!





As we all know, “It takes a village” to make an organization successful. There are many opportunities for congregants to lend their talents to the work that it takes to keep our congregation running smoothly.

**Do you enjoy singing? Do you play a musical instrument? A few simple chords played on a guitar or the ethereal sound of a flute can do so much to enhance the beauty of our services. Are you adept with handling computer technology? We need someone in our congregation who is willing to assist with managing Zoom audio and video settings for our Shabbat services and other programs that are being streamed. There are so many different ways that your skills could enhance CBJ!**

Please contact our co-Presidents, Devon Fernald and Dianne Bluestein, if you are able to help.  
[president@cbjplymouth.org](mailto:president@cbjplymouth.org)



### **Please Volunteer to Sponsor an Oneg!**

If you would like to honor a special occasion (birthday, anniversary, etc.) in a very special way, please consider sponsoring an Oneg. A beautiful, welcoming Oneg table of challah, fruit, baked goods, or even ice cream sundaes is a sign of our warm hospitality to our congregants, guests, and prospective members.

When you are a member of our congregation, you are asked to step forward **once a year** to host or sponsor an Oneg Shabbat for the members who attend services in person. Sponsors are asked to contribute \$54.00 to cover the cost for the Oneg. We will purchase the foods for the Oneg table, set up and clean up. [Click here to sign up for a specific date and pay.](#) If you prefer, you may send a check, payable to CBJ Sisterhood, to Cindy Teles at 31 Birch Avenue, Plymouth, MA 02360.

Hosts are expected to purchase or bake the items for the Oneg and be there in person to help to set up and clean up. The choice of food items is up to you. The Oneg can be as elaborate or as simple as you like.

Please contact our Oneg Coordinator, Trish Garland (([trishrgarland@gmail.com](mailto:trishrgarland@gmail.com)) if you would like to sponsor or host an Oneg. Trish can provide advice about what items are popular, such as fresh fruit, nuts, baked goods (not necessarily homemade), ice cream with toppings, etc. It's a mitzvah!



*Thank You*

to Hyman & Sandy Spekman, who have sponsored the Pre-neg on December 5th. (What is a Pre-neg? It is a gathering time before the Shabbat service featuring wine and hors d'oeuvres.)



## **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

If you would like to learn more about CBJ and are interested in becoming part of our Jewish community, please contact our Membership Chair, Barbara Aharoni, at [ahabubs@gmail.com](mailto:ahabubs@gmail.com). [Click here for a link to CBJ's Application Form.](#)





Congregation Beth Jacob is grateful for all donations that are received. The following donations were recently received:

**Yahrzeit/General Fund:**

- Harry Shamir & Barbara Aharoni Shamir - in loving memory of Elizabeth Shamir
- Susan Basiri - in loving memory of Mildred Goldberg

**High Holiday Appeal:**

- Paul & Pamela Sechoka
- Phyllis Klasky
- Elliott Berger
- Arnold & Lois Weiss

**General Fund Donations:**

- Laura Potter Kahn - in honor of Jordan's Bat Mitzvah
- Phyllis Klasky - Tzedakah in honor of Gertrude and Melvin Klasky

**Food Bank Donations:**

Paul & Pamela Sechoka

**Gift Card Program:**

Jeffrey Isaacson

**Rachmiel Klein's Cantorial Services:**

Allan & Judith Sherman



**Funding for Rachmiel Klein's Monthly Cantorial Performances**

Rachmiel has been a featured songleader at our Shabbat services over the past year, adding a new vibrancy and joy to our worship. His fee is not paid from your dues or from CBJ's General Fund, but is being subsidized by generous donations from a congregant family, together with contributions from the Ray & Milly Russo Fund for Music and the Arts and the Rose Sherman Geller Fund for Jewish Family Life. If you have been enjoying the music of Rachmiel Klein at our services, you may wish to contribute to those funds or make a small monthly donation designated for the funding of Rachmiel's cantorial services. [Click here for a list of funds where donations may be made.](#)

[Click here to make a donation online.](#)



### **Food Bank Donations to Families in Need**

**The need for food assistance is greater than ever in the Plymouth area,** As of November first, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has had no government funding. This will affect 41.7 million Americans who depend on SNAP to feed their children and themselves, including our seniors. CBJ Beit Sefer has already been collecting food for Tikkun Olam.

Many of our congregants are anxious to respond to this outrage by donating to our CBJ Food Drive. Below are guidelines for what items are needed most urgently. **Please be aware that for donations to SNAP, the focus is on the quality and safety of canned goods rather than just the expiration date. High-acid canned goods (like tomatoes) are best within 18 months past the date, while low-acid foods (like meats and vegetables) can last 2-5 years or more.** [Click HERE for guidelines for what items are needed most urgently.](#)

**Please bring non-perishable food items, as well as disposable diapers and personal hygiene items, to the temple Social Hall when you attend services.**

**Cash Donations:** If you wish to make a monetary donation, you may do so online [using this link](https://www.cbjplymouth.org/donate/donate-now), (<https://www.cbjplymouth.org/donate/donate-now>) or you may send a check to

Congregation Beth Jacob, PO Box 3284, Plymouth, MA 02361, Attention: Treasurer. **Be sure to note that this is a donation for the Food Bank.**



### **Mi Sheiberach (Prayers for Healing)**

We pray for the Healing and Recovery of the following people, as well as all of those throughout the world who are suffering from violence, war and famine:

Ina Lashin  
Joseph Keller  
Tracey Gutman  
John R. Sore  
Susan Basiri  
Mary Ellen Dalgren  
Maryann Leonard  
Sandy Magnes Silverman  
Julian Lindquist  
Erin Sullivan  
Linda Dauber  
Susan Penchansky  
Callan Crowley  
Lynne Matson

Leslie Portney  
Lauren DeFranzo  
Nan Noble  
Len Kaplan  
Marilyn Levine  
Andrea Weiss  
Chris Davis  
Ruth Anne Repking  
Meredith Hoffman  
Marlene Benjamin  
Esther Rucha  
Neil Rosenstrauch  
Susan Moore  
Trisha Brown  
Rabbi Estelle Mills

[To hear the beautiful song, Heal Us Now, performed by Hazamir Hasharon, click here.](#)



### **Yahrzeits That Will be Observed This Month**

*(A memorial candle should be lit on the preceding evening.)*

#### **December**

- 1 Anne Helene Berg
- 1 Harris Kaplowitz - CBJ Founder
- 1 William Lashin- Sherri Sore's father
- 1 Susan Sherman Stone - Allan Sherman's cousin, Friend of CBJ
- 2 Linda Lamel - Jerry Treppel's sister
- 3 Albert (Al) Sarke - Fred Sarke's father
- 4 Ezra Goldstein
- 4 Saul Padlusky - Rose Geller's cousin
- 5 Bert Kagan
- 6 Molla B. Jacobson
- 6 Sara Sherman - Rose Geller's grandmother, Allan Sherman's great-grandmother
- 7 Theodore Aaron Greene - Adeline Keller's brother
- 7 Borris Sackheim
- 7 Joan Weinstein - Peter Weinstein's mother
- 8 Rebecca Lotta Koblantz
- 9 Alice S. Resnick Bernard Resnick
- 9 Stanley Resnick Bernard Resnick
- 9 Ruth Righter - William Righter family
- 9 Irving Lawrence Shuman - Sidney Shuman's brother
- 10 Samuel Matross - Burt Matross's father
- 10 Julius Sepet - Bloom family
- 10 Elizabeth Van West Sokolow
- 10 Eleanor Weiss - Arnold Weiss' mother
- 11 Harry Glassman
- 11 Stanley Guttman - Rabbi Mills Uncle
- 12 Harold Ross -Janet Strauss' father
- 13 Esther Greenspoon
- 13 Ann Winkler - Brenda Baler's mother
- 14 Frances D. Kaufman
- 14 Melvin Klasky Phyllis Klasky's father, Steve Minsky's uncle
- 14 Max Krenis - Judith Sherman's father
- 14 Tina Liss - Franny Shelly's mother
- 15 Harry Koblantz
- 15 Frieda Roe - Robin Hunter's grandmother
- 16 Sheila Toabe Davis - Mitchel & Ann Toabe's daughter



- 16 Hyman Goober - Lynne Bryan's father
- 17 Harold Michael Resnick
- 17 Aba Taub - Sherman & Toabe families' cousin
- 18 Sylvia Righter - William Righter's grandmother
- 19 Marion Shuman CBJ member
- 20 Haim (Carlo) Shamir - Harry Shamir's father
- 21 Israel Edward Ginsburg - Myra Glansberg's father
- 21 Max Penn
- 22 Nathan Hirschhorn - Dan Hirschhorn's father
- 25 Max Winter - Sherri Sore's grandfather
- 26 Anna B. Toabe - Mitchell Toabe's first wife
- 27 Florence Dezorett
- 27 Anne Lois (Kalm) Elowitz - Ronald Elowitz's mother
- 28 Abraham C. Goldman - Ethel Shiff's father
- 30 Samuel Arons - Manny Arons' uncle
- 30 Louis Coffman - Klasky family
- 30 Edwin Goldberg - Pam Sechoka's and Susan Basiri's father
- 30 Jacob Steinberg - CBJ Founder; Plymouth's first Shochet

*May their memory forever abide as a blessing.*

### **Yahrzeit Donations**

[Donations in memory of a loved one may be made here.](#)



### **The Next Sisterhood Meeting Monday, December 8th, at 7:00 pm (Zoom)**

Regular Monthly Sisterhood Meetings: are held on the second Monday of each month. Your input is important to us! What sorts of programs would YOU like to participate in during the coming months? Future potential events include a mystery ride, a book discussion, a game night, a talent show, and a series of programs focusing on Jewish Women of Action. Please come to the meeting and share your ideas!

#### **The Zoom link for Sisterhood Meetings:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81885106141?pwd=dHd6LzMzSTRJZ2J6VmM2WIBZenpXZz09>

Meeting ID: 818 8510 6141 Passcode: 579857

### **Sisterhood's Next Program A Game Day!**



**Thursday, December 18th, 1:00-3:30 pm  
at the Plymouth Public Library Crafts Room**

Please join us for a fun afternoon of schmoozing, snacking and game playing. (Think Bridge, Mahjongg, Canasta, Trivial Pursuits, Monopoly, Chess, Bananagrams, Candy Land -- or any other games that you would like to play!) We will meet in the Crafts Room at the Plymouth Public Library (plenty of parking and fully handicap accessible!) This is the last event of this calendar year so come and meet your fellow sisterhood members for a fun and informal social gathering! If you are interested in coming, please send an email to Cindy Teles ([iacorna@aol.com](mailto:iacorna@aol.com)) to let her know what games you will be bringing and which games you would like to play.

#### **Dues for 2025-2026 Are Now Due!**

Sisterhood has always been a backbone of CBJ, with its donation to the temple, the sponsoring of onegs and other events, and its various activities. In order for Sisterhood to continue in this vital role, we need you!!! **It is not necessary to be a member of CBJ to be a member of Sisterhood.**

There are 3 levels of dues: \$25- Ruby level; \$36- Emerald level; and \$54- Diamond level

Please send your check, payable to CBJ Sisterhood, to Cindy Teles at 31 Birch Ave. Plymouth, MA 02360.

**OR**

You may pay online at <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/cbj-sisterhood/items>



## Sisterhood Application Form 2025-2026

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell)

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Area of interest \_\_\_\_\_

Talent you would be willing to share with the group \_\_\_\_\_

Program suggestions \_\_\_\_\_

If you prefer to be an inactive member, please indicate that preference here: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are a primary source of funds for many projects. Even if you can't participate, please join us and support our important programs and activities.

**Ruby Membership:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00

**Emerald Membership:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$36.00

**Diamond Membership:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$54.00

Make your check payable to Beth Jacob Sisterhood and put "Sisterhood Dues" in the Memo line. Please mail to: Cindy Teles, 31 Birch Avenue, Plymouth MA 02360.

**NEW! ONLINE PAYMENTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!**

You may now pay your Sisterhood dues online! [CLICK HERE](#)! Be sure to note that your payment is for Sisterhood dues. Thank you!

## CBJ Gift Card Program



Please support CBJ by purchasing Gift Cards. When you do, CBJ receives a substantial commission and it costs you nothing.

Which popular restaurants and retail firms participate in our Gift Card program? Texas Roadhouse, Panera, Chipotle, Olive Garden, Fridays, Chili's, and 99, along with retail firms such as Stop & Shop, Shaw's, Big Y, Walmart, TJ Maxx, Marshall's, Zappo's Walgreen's, CVS (gift cards can be used to pay for your prescriptions), Home Depot, and hundreds of others.

[Check out this link to get a partial listing.](#)

### You Can Order Gift Cards Online!

To order gift cards online, download the RaiseRight app on your Smartphone or computer. Set up your method of payment. **Enter CBJ's Enrollment Code 3477L3C988L9 which will designate Congregation Beth Jacob as your organization.** The gift cards can be mailed to you, or better yet, they will be available instantly in digital form in your RaiseRight wallet on your phone. Gift cards can also be refilled online. How convenient is that!

### You Can Now Book Travel through RaiseRight!

Make your earnings go the distance! You can now book hotels and car rentals directly through RaiseRight. Enjoy low prices, higher earnings, and the flexibility of booking with a credit or debit card while you raise money for CBJ! More information is available on [RaiseRight.com](http://RaiseRight.com).



## Brotherhood Bowling

### The 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the Month at 3:00 pm at Kingston Ten Pins

We bowl 3 strings and pay only the special rate of \$4.50/string. This is a great way to get together with other members of Brotherhood, renew old friendships, and make new ones. You don't have to be good at bowling to participate - all you need is a good sense of humor! Contact Seth Teles at [scteles@aol.com](mailto:scteles@aol.com) or Arnold Gladstein at [aralglad@verizon.net](mailto:aralglad@verizon.net) and let us know if you would like to join us. Is your spouse or significant other welcome? Of course!



## Recipe for Air Fryer Potato Latkes



These irresistibly-crispy air fryer potato pancakes can be ready in about 20 minutes! They're crunchy on the outside, soft on the inside, and a perfect complement for any meal.

PREP TIME 10 minutes COOK TIME 9 minutes TOTAL TIME 19 minutes

### INGREDIENTS

2-3 green onions  
6 potatoes, like Yukon Golds, peeled and quartered  
Pinch of baking soda  
2 eggs  
1 1/2 teaspoons salt  
1/2 teaspoon pepper or to taste  
1/4 teaspoon baking powder  
2 tablespoons flour  
Olive oil spray to coat the air fryer basket

### TOPPINGS (optional):

Sour cream or Greek yogurt  
Gravlax, fresh dill, and capers  
Applesauce, apple slices, and cinnamon

### DIRECTIONS

1. In a food processor, grate onions and transfer them to a medium-sized mixing bowl.
2. Grate potatoes and transfer to a colander. Use a kitchen towel, paper towels or cheesecloth to squeeze out moisture. [Note: Enclose the potato mixture in batches in the towels or cheese cloth and seriously squeeze out the liquid.]
3. Add the potatoes to the bowl of onions.
4. Add baking soda to prevent the onion-potato mixture from turning brown.
5. Add eggs, salt, pepper, baking powder, and flour; mix well.
6. Coat the air fryer basket with olive oil spray.
7. To shape the latkes, use a 1/4-cup measuring cup, and gently flatten each latke with the bottom of the measuring cup. Continue to scoop in 1/4-cup amounts into air fryer basket in a single layer.
8. Air fry at 375°F until the latkes are crispy and golden brown (about 8 to 10 minutes).

Serve with toppings.