



THE PUP TENT

Congregation Beth Jacob's Monthly Newsletter
November, 2020

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

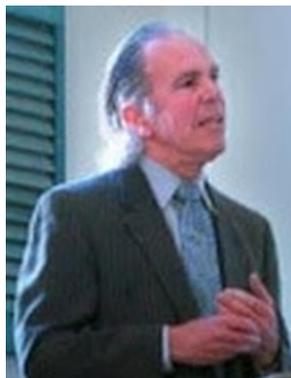
Our synagogue building will remain closed until the threat of Covid-19 contagion has subsided. All upcoming religious services and group meetings are being conducted via Zoom, a widely used teleconferencing tool that is accessible by computers, tablets, and SmartPhones, as well as landline phones. This policy will remain in effect for the foreseeable future. Most, if not all, synagogues in our area are taking this necessary course of action.

SHABBAT!



During the time when Shabbat services are suspended, a "Virtual Shabbat Service," with links to essential blessings, prayers and songs, as well as Rabbi Silverman's weekly message/sermon, is being published in the Weekly Update. CBJ has also been conducting Shabbat services via **Zoom**, a teleconferencing computer application. See the "CBJ Weekly Update" for information on how to connect to these services using Zoom.

If you do not currently receive the "Weekly Update," please send an email message to Judith Sherman at judith.sherman@gmail.com, and she will be happy to add you to the distribution list.



Rabbi Silverman's Sermon on October 9, 2020
Reflections About Simchat Torah, our Relationship to the Torah and our Ability to Maintain
our Jewish Practices in the Time of Covid-19

GLEN MANOR

As a mid-stream rabbinic student, I put in a request for a special congregation that I felt close to. I was interested in becoming the student-rabbi at the Glen Manor Home for the Jewish Aged, where I attended Shabbat morning services occasionally. In two previous years I had served as a High Holiday rabbi only, and then had to wait to see whether a small congregation would be open for me. This would mean traveling every other week-end to my "bi-weekly" congregation and, in between visits, to be available by telephone, if needed.

Then I noticed that I was left out of what we called "the Lottery." Bi-weekly congregations were assigned by pure luck, first to the graduation-year students, then to the following classes. As for me, I was offered to be the student-rabbi for Glen Manor, which meant that I would stay in Cincinnati. I was happy with the assignment, even though I knew there was a catch: my assignment was not every other week, but every week, with free time being granted for Thanksgiving, part of the early winter break, and eleven weeks of summer break. If I wanted to do this, I could have the assignment right through my graduation year. And I accepted. This was wonderful: my first regular student congregation within reasonable walking distance from my home. I began that day not only to practice the liturgy – I was already accustomed to the prayerbook that was in use at Glen Manor – and I wound up spending hours preparing my sermons. When the day came, when I was to conduct my first Shabbat service as the new student-rabbi of Glen Manor, I was excited and found myself singing parts of the Evening Service as I walked from my house a mile-and-a-half to meet my new congregation. Previously, I had been there during the day to meet the director and some of the staff.

I arrived early and set the Torah scroll for the morning's reading. Then I waited for people to arrive. When they came, their average age looked to be close to 90. Some of the attendees suffered from memory loss. I had been prepared for this likelihood. I was also prepared to welcome a number of people who arrived in wheel-chairs (one individual propelled himself). After I introduced myself as their new student-rabbi (there was light applause), we began the service. In the morning, I had similar observations, and noted that there were more people in attendance, more wheel-chairs, and almost twice as many women as men.

It was Shabbat morning. I sang. I announced all the page numbers. I used a small microphone, expecting that some members of the congregation would be hard-of-hearing, which was the case. Few members of the congregation participated in saying the prayers, although most of them held prayer-books; and though I heard the voices of three or four of the women singing, there were only three or four. There were about sixty people in the small synagogue at Glen Manor that day.

Then we came to taking the Torah scroll out of the Ark. Singing through a microphone made me sound very loud; but I let it be and started to walk around our house of worship. Everyone sat in one central section, and wheel-chairs were in the back and along the sides of those who were seated. During my walk-around, I did most of the singing but, as I carried the Torah through the assembled wheel-chairs, I witnessed something unexpected, beautiful and unforgettable, as you will see in a moment. Those with serious memory loss, and there were quite a few, became animated. Many of those who could not speak smiled and began to tap their fingers; and a few of them made sounds, not words, but sounds which pointed to words they no longer had the power to say. There was a sparkle in the eyes of a number of people who, only minutes before, had eyes that were dull, uncomprehending.

A man struggled to kiss his tallit, struggled more to try to reach the Torah. Seeing him, I took a step in his direction and leaned over, so that he could kiss the Torah directly. His face glowed with utter happiness. Although he no longer could tell you what the Torah had to say, and although he no longer could articulate the Torah blessings or, for that matter, any of the prayers in our Siddur, yet, when he saw me carrying the Torah-scroll and drawing near to him, he experienced his love for the Torah and our religion. The depth of his love was amazing, although he no longer had the words to express it.

Many of us, perhaps all of us, carry this love-for-the-Torah within ourselves. This is the love that the Torah and our holidays try to teach us. Today it's Sh'mini Atzeret and tomorrow night and Sunday it's Simchat Torah. We know that, this year, we cannot go to the Synagogue to dance with the Torah-scrolls. But we can remember! The emotional power that the Torah inspires is within us or, if not within us, within our reach: to rejuvenate ourselves Jewishly and to pass our inspiration and our love to each other and on to the next generation.

You may contact Rabbi Silverman by phone (508-746-0010) or by email at (rabbilawrence@gmail.com).



The Following Yahrzeits Will be Observed in November:

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

November 2020

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Meyer Baron | 12 Bertha Goldberg |
| 1 David M. Goldstein | 13 Danella "Penny" Baum |
| 1 Phyllis E. Levenson | 13 Sidney Shuman |
| 2 Sylvia Rubinfain Cohen | 13 Gerald Wiseman |
| 2 Ruth Broder Ennis | 14 Julius Meltzer |
| 2 Trude Weishaupt | 14 Lenard R. Simon |
| 3 Alfred Diamond | 15 Gladys Zimmerman |
| 3 Jorge Epstein | 16 Freda Reynolds |
| 3 Dora Goodman | 18 Joseph Cohen |
| 3 Sally Jaffee | 18 Mildred Goldberg |
| 3 Phyllis Sacks | 18 I. Richard Goldstein |
| 3 Miriam Ross Toabe | 18 Minna Matross |
| 4 Sophie Dorf | 18 Louis Resnick |
| 4 Charlotte Roe Gerber | 18 Rachel Yutan |
| 4 Elissa Teles | 18 Edith Zavalcofsky |
| 5 Gida Michaels | 19 Helen R. Kramer |
| 6 Celia Bello | 20 Harold W. Cohen |
| 6 Bernard T. Resnick | 20 Bessie Kramer |
| 7 Marshall Meltzer | 20 Kebe Toabe |
| 7 Mildred Resnick Segal | 21 Morris Russo |
| 8 Esther Carlson | 22 May Cohler |
| 8 Sadye R. Meltzer | 24 Celia Starr |
| 9 Joseph Paley | 25 Albert Shiff |
| 9 Herman Roe | 27 Anne Helene Berg |
| 10 Bernard Feinberg | 27 Harris Kaplowitz |
| 10 George Gleason | 27 William Lashin |
| 10 Eunice Dezorett Millstein | 28 Norman Green |
| 10 Israel Pokross | 28 Linda Lamel |
| 11 Lisl "Alice" Wise | 29 Albert Lesser |
| 12 Edward F. Baler | 30 Ezra Goldstein |
| 12 Abraham Goldberg | 30 Saul Padlusky |

May their memories be for a blessing and live forever in the hearts of all who knew and loved them.



Congregation Beth Jacob gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following donations:

Yahrzeit Fund:

- Steve & Jackie Winokur - in memory of Steve's father, Reubin Winokur
- Franny & Jeff Shelly - in memory of Jeff's mother, Edythe Shelly
- Paula & Joe Keller & Campanella Family - in memory of Paula's father, Manny Arons

A generous donation to the Yahrzeit Fund was received from the Sadye Gereboff CJP Donor Advised Fund in memory of:

- Abraham Sherman
- Sarah Sherman
- Hyman Sherman
- Estelle Pokross Sherman
- Sadye Sherman Gereboff
- Samuel Gereboff
- Ruth Sherman
- Louis Sherman
- Milton Geller
- Rose Sherman Geller

General Fund:

- Phyliss Klasky - in appreciation for the High Holiday Services
- Sara Minsky - in appreciation for the Yizkor Service

Crisis Relief Fund (Plymouth Area Food Warehouse)

Gail Lury Wax and Fred Wax - in memory of Gail's mother, Martha Lury

Ray & Milly Russo Cultural Heritage & Arts Fund:

- Mark Russo - in memory of his parents, Ray and Milly Russo
- Sara Minsky - in memory of Harriette Minsky



The Congregation Sends its Sincere Condolences to

- Marcia and Al Baum and Family, on the death of Marcia's brother, Edward Sternfield
- Myra Glansberg and Family, on the death of her husband, Ken Glansberg



CBJ'S NEW SISTERHOOD
BREAKING NEWS!
Sisterhood's New Presidents!

Although the campaign was rough and the competition for the position was fierce, Sisterhood can now proudly announce the winners of this election! **Ladies, welcome your new co-Presidents, Rose Litchman and Cindy Teles! Paula Keller will serve as Recording Secretary and Suzanne Goldberg will round out the slate by filling the position of Corresponding Secretary.**

We have all heard the old adage that "If you want something done, ask the busy person." Truer words were never spoken. Rose, who joined CBJ a year ago, is already serving as CBJ's Membership Chair, and Cindy, a long-time member of the congregation, is also serving as Sisterhood's Treasurer.

Rose and Cindy are hard at work, thinking about programs that will be interesting and exciting for our members in the months to come. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact them! This is YOUR organization! (Remember: Suggesting a program does not mean that you have to chair it.)

Rose: snobuntng@aol.com

Cindy: iacorna@aol.com

NEW Sisterhood!

(from Sisterhood's Co-President, Rose Litchman)

Read our news here to learn who we are, our purpose and our exciting plans as we welcome all women. Let's meet our officers: Co-presidents: Rose Litchman and Cindy Teles; Treasurer: Cindy Teles; Secretary: Paula Keller

Meet Co-President, Cindy Teles

Cindy is a well-liked and well-known friend of our community. She always has a bright, happy smile for everyone.

In her own words:

My father Manny (Aronowitz) Arons, of Blessed Memory, served as Treasurer of this congregation, so when Seth and I settled back here to raise our family, it was expected our lives would center around the synagogue. After all Rabbi Silverman married us there!

My parents landed here because we had relatives in Plymouth. I lived on Standish Avenue, right next-door to Steve and Larry Winokur. I was the brainy "bookworm type" and I guess I still am because for 25 years, I have worked as the para-professional at the library at the Nathaniel Morton School - I love books and reading. Principal Fred Sarke suggested the job to me. (Thanks Fred!) I work part time at T.J. Max. Look for me in the jewelry department or at check-out.

I received a National Merit Scholarship, enrolled and later graduated from Michigan State University. Luckily, I met Seth at a Kol Nidre service there. We have 2 sons -Daniel, who is married and lives in Washington, D.C. and Adam, who lives with us. My goal for the NEW Sisterhood is to see it thrive and for the temple to survive! I agreed to serve with Rose because I had no reason to turn her down!

Meet Co-President, Rose Litchman

Rose joined CBJ last year and within a very short period of time, she volunteered to serve as Membership Chair, a Board position that she concurrently holds.

In her own words: "I am a professional volunteer. When I filled out forms and I saw the question asking for my occupation, I would write "nation builder." No one dared ask what it meant! I was a fundraiser for Israel. My grandparents, very observant Jews from Lithuania, sailed to American and settled in Providence. I researched my genealogy for years and hosted a huge reunion reenacting their story.

Being creative gives me joy. As a young bride and later mom, I was blessed with 3 mentors who taught by example the value of helping others to ensure one of a meaningful life. I strive for this. They encouraged me to take on leadership for Hadassah, Sisterhood, temple, United Jewish Appeal, Brandeis and all things Jewish. In Fall River's secular community, I became involved with Big Sisters, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, hospital board and so on. One of my favorite projects was settling Russian Jewish families.

My path led me to Plymouth and to CBJ's door. I enjoy bringing people together for learning and fun! Members welcomed me so warmly, especially Marjorie and Ronnie. I will work hard to revive the New Sisterhood.

Oh, my daughter lives in Providence and my son, his wife and daughter live in Philly. Michael works as a fundraiser for Federation there. Sound familiar?"

**NEW SISTERHOOD QUERY
DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY PAST SISTERHOOD SECRETARIES' NOTEBOOKS?
IF SO, PLEASE CONTACT PAULA KELLER (PMAKeller@aol.com).**



Sisterhood's Diaper Drive Continues!

The Diaper Drive is Sisterhood's ongoing Tzedakah project, and our coordinator, Suzanne Goldberg, has been providing diapers, wipes, etc. to the South Shore Community Action Council for distribution to families in need. **If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to Beth Jacob Sisterhood and send it to Sherri Sore, 63 Sea Cliff, Plymouth 02360.** Thank you!



Beit Sefer News!

This year, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, all classes are being conducted by Zoom. CBJ has licensed the use of “Shalom Learning,” an educational curriculum that spans levels Kindergarten through 6th grade, and has hired a professional staff of educators.

David Wesson: Head Teacher, 6th grade

Shoshana York: 4th and 5th grade

Devon Portney: 2nd and 3rd grade

Shira Moss: Kindergarten and 1st grade

Rabbi Silverman: Pre-Kindergarten

On the Sunday of Sukkot, Shoshana York's 5th grade class connected with a family in Israel, via Zoom, to discuss how they each celebrate Sukkot. Jessie Bluestein wrote the following description:

Sukkot

Written by: Jessie Bluestein

On the first day of Sukkot we gather around the Sukka to celebrate the fall harvest. The two symbols that represent Sukkot are the etrog and lulav. The etrog is a shape of a lemon and for it to be kosher it has to have a stem or a brown spot. The lulav is a long branch that represents the different branches including myrtle, willow, and palm that together with the etrog represents the Jewish people. As a tradition, we shake the lulav and etrog and in all directions four times to begin the celebration of Sukkot. We learned about how it is a mitzvah to sleep in the Sukkah. It was a pleasure to meet Jewish people in Israel and learn how they celebrate Sukkot.

Yasher Koach (Good job), Jessie!

Recipe for Apple Cake.

Ingredients

4 apples - You can use a variety (1 each of Gala, Fuji, Granny Smith, and Crispin)
lemon juice to prevent apples from browning as you cut (~1T)
2 tablespoons margarine (or butter if making dairy)
1-2 tablespoons sugar

For cake batter:

1 cup flour
3/4 cup sugar
2 eggs
1/2 cup canola oil
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon vanilla
2-3 tablespoons demerara sugar or light brown sugar or raw sugar (optional)

Directions

Preheat oven to 350° F. Grease and flour a 9-inch round cake pan or springform, or an 8X8-inch square pan. (If you want to plate this, use a springform; otherwise, just serve it out of the pan.)

Peel and core the apples, then cut each apple into ~12 slices. Sprinkle with lemon juice (you don't need much - maybe a tablespoon or so for 4 apples) while the others are being sliced to prevent browning.

Heat margarine in pan over low heat and add apples and 1-2 T white sugar. Stir for ~10-15 minutes until apples soften. Some of the liquid will soak into the apples, but if too much of it starts to evaporate, then turn the heat down.

While the apples are on the stove top, mix together the remaining ingredients (except for the demerara sugar) -- flour, sugar (the 3/4 C), eggs, oil, baking powder, and vanilla. No mixer is required - you can just mix everything by hand even though the batter is quite thick.

Add half the warm apples (juices and all) to the batter and mix. Then pour into the prepared pan and spread the batter evenly with a spatula . Arrange the remaining apple slices on the top of the batter as decoratively as possible (though even a mishmash will look nice).

Sprinkle the cake with demerara sugar if you'd like and bake for 1 hour. As it bakes, the high egg content causes the cake to rise up as the heavier fruit sinks slightly and the demerara sugar helps creates a crackly crunchy crust that caramelizes slightly at the edges and where the fruit juices pool.

Cool in pan and serve. I doubt you'll have leftovers.

Editor's Note: "The Pup Tent" is a monthly publication that provides a condensed summary of CBJ news, including the monthly Calendar, upcoming Yahrzeit dates, and acknowledgments of donations that have been received. The "CBJ Weekly Update" is our weekly email newsletter that includes full details about upcoming events, as well as information about the weekly Torah reading portion and helpful links to various resources. **To subscribe to the CBJ Weekly Update, please contact me at judith.sherman@gmail.com.** Thank you! Judith Sherman, Editor, "The Pup Tent" and "CBJ Weekly Update"