



THE TENT

Congregation Beth Jacob's Monthly Newsletter
January, 2022



CBJ Calendar of Upcoming Events:

January 3, 8:30 am: Limud Torah Study Group with Rabbi Emeritus, Rabbi Silverman

January 5, 8:00 pm: Conversations with Jewish Authors Adult Education Series: A Talk with Lisa Scottoline, Author of **Eternal** (free, but pre-registration is required. See the article for details.)

January 7, 7:00 pm: Shabbat Service via Zoom

January 10, 8:30 a.m.: Limud Torah Study Group with Rabbi Emeritus, Rabbi Silverman

January 10, RSVP's Due for Tu B'Shevat Seder (rsvp@cbjplymouth.org)

January 14, 7:00 pm: Special Tu B'shevat Service, including B'shevat Seder (both in-person and via Zoom.) See the flyer on the next page for details.

January 16 at sundown: Tu Bishevat begins (See article with information about this little-known holiday)

January 17, 8:30 a.m.: Limud Torah Study Group with Rabbi Emeritus, Rabbi Silverman

January 21, 7:00 pm: Shabbat Service via Zoom

January 19, 8:00 pm: Conversations with Jewish Authors Adult Education Series: A Talk with Andrew Feiler, Author of **A Better Life for Their Children: Julius Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington, and the 4,978 Schools that Changed America** (free, but pre-registration is required. See the article for details.)

January 24, 8:30 a.m.: Limud Torah Study Group with Rabbi Emeritus, Rabbi Silverman

January 28, 7:00 pm: Shabbat Service (via Zoom)

January 31, 8:30 a.m.: Limud Torah Study Group with Rabbi Emeritus, Rabbi Silverman

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



Congregation
Beth Jacob

TU BISHVAT SEDER/SERVICE

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 14TH AT 7:00 PM
HYBRID SERVICE (ZOOM AND IN-PERSON)**

EXPERIENCE A TU BISHVAT SEDER WITH

- ✓ 4 CUPS OF WINE OR GRAPE JUICE
- ✓ 3 DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF FRUIT
- ✓ SPECIAL TU BISHVAT MUSIC
- ✓ READINGS ABOUT JUDAISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**RSVP TO RSVP@CBJPLYMOUTH.ORG BY
JANUARY 10TH**

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See the “CBJ Weekly Update” for details and links to join these meetings.
[To see CBJ's online Calendar of Events, click here.](#)



Exciting New Adult Education Programs! Conversations With Jewish Authors

Join with about 25 other Reform congregations for a monthly conversation with a Jewish author of a newly published book. You will find information about each monthly program in the Weekly Update, in The Pup Tent, and in the CBJ calendar of events on the CBJ website (cbjplymouth.org.) **Please note that participation in these programs is free of charge, but advance registration is required.**

To see the complete schedule, click here.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Tx1u5CjP09H1o1o0xUZasj5BXPdVUfja98V_nFsbg8/edit?usp=sharing

Upcoming Programs:

A Talk with Lisa Scottoline, Author of *Eternal* Wednesday, January 5, 2022, at 8:00 pm

About the Author: Lisa Scottoline is the New York Times-bestselling author of thirty two novels. She has 30 million copies of her books in print in the United States and has been published in thirty-five countries. Scottoline also writes a weekly column with her daughter for The Philadelphia Inquirer. Lisa has served as President of Mystery Writers of America and has taught a course she developed, "Justice in Fiction" at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, her alma mater. She lives in the Philadelphia area.

Summary of the Book: *Eternal* is the culmination of a lifetime of #1 bestseller, Lisa Scottoline's work. She has been researching the Italian Holocaust since her undergraduate days when she took an intimate yearlong seminar at the University of Pennsylvania led by Philip Roth called "The Literature of the Holocaust." She was inspired to write about Fascism and the Holocaust in Italy someday especially as the Italian Holocaust remains untold in popular fiction. Elisabetta, Marco, and Sandro grow up as the best of friends despite their differences. Elisabetta dreams of becoming a novelist; Marco the brash and athletic son in a family of professional cyclists; and Sandro a kind-hearted Jewish mathematics prodigy. Their friendship blossoms to love, with both Sandro and Marco hoping to win Elisabetta's heart. As anti-Semitism takes legal root and World War II erupts, they realize Mussolini was only the beginning. The Nazis invade Rome, and with their occupation come new atrocities against the city's Jews, culminating in a final, horrific betrayal. *Eternal* is a heartbreaking story of both the best and the worst that the world has to offer. Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtcOyhrD4pEtYJZtKnFs66D3RLUPnUqj8J>

**A Talk with Andrew Feiler, Author of A Better Life for Their Children: Julius
Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington, and the 4,978 Schools that Changed America
January 19, 2022 at 8:00 pm**

About the Author: Andrew Feiler is a fifth-generation Georgian. Having grown up Jewish in Savannah, he has been shaped by the rich complexities of the American South. Andrew has long been active in civic life. He has created numerous community initiatives, serves on multiple not-for-profit boards, and is an active advisor to political leaders. His art is an extension of his civic values.

Summary of the Book: Born to Jewish immigrants, Julius Rosenwald rose to lead Sears, Roebuck & Company and turn it into the world's largest retailer. Born into slavery, Booker T. Washington became the founding principal of Tuskegee Institute. In 1912 the two men launched an ambitious program to partner with Black communities across the segregated South to build public schools for African American children. One of the earliest collaborations between Jews and African American, this initiative drove dramatic improvement in African American educational attainment and fostered the generation who became the foot soldiers of the civil rights movement. Of the original 4,978 Rosenwald schools built 1912- 1937 across fifteen states, only about 500 survive. To tell this story visually, Andrew Feiler drove 25,000 miles, photographed 105 schools, and interviewed dozens of former students, teachers, and preservationists. The book includes 85 photographs capturing interiors and exteriors, schools restored and yet-to-be-restored, and portraits of people with compelling connections to these schools. Brief narratives written by Feiler accompany each photograph. The book's foreword is by Congressman John Lewis, a Rosenwald school alum.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwuc-2sqjMtGtassK7ETBkmS3BQanVI2zhm>



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The CBJ community warmly welcomes the newest member of our congregation:

Deborah (Debi) Ettinger Cramer
27 Danforth Lane, Plymouth

If you know of any new families in the Plymouth area who might be interested in joining CBJ, please ask them to contact our Membership Chair, Rose Litchman at snobuntng@aol.com
[Click here for a link to CBJ's Application Form.](#)



Mazel Tov to Stephen Blinder!

The congregation wishes a hearty Mazel Tov to Stephen Blinder, who completed his Bar Mitzvah training with Rabbi Mills and was called to the Torah as an adult Bar Mitzvah on December 17th.

For more information about Stephen, see the December 2021 edition of The Pup Tent.

Gabby Giffords's Adult Bat Mitzvah



Former U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords stood before the congregation in Tucson, Ariz., and kissed her tallit, preparing to chant from the Torah for the first time, Rabbi Stephanie Aaron placed her hand atop Giffords' hand, her voice rising and falling along with Giffords' own. It was an emotional moment two decades in the making.

The backstory: Giffords – whose Hebrew name is Gavriella, meaning “my strength is God” – is the granddaughter of a rabbi, descended from a long line of Lithuanian rabbis, but did not become bat mitzvah at the traditional age. She first thought about having an adult bat mitzvah in the early 2000s, but life – and a near-fatal shooting – got in the way.

The fateful day: In 2011, during a Saturday morning meet-and greet outside a grocery store, Giffords was shot in the head in an attack that left six people dead and a dozen others injured. She has spent the past decade in speech and physical therapy, and became a national crusader for gun-safety laws.

The event: On December 2nd, ten years later, on a very different Saturday morning, friends and family gathered at Congregation Chaverim, a synagogue that was defaced with a swastika and antisemitic slurs earlier this year. Others joined via Zoom. Near the conclusion of the service, Giffords played “Amazing Grace” on the French horn.

The parsha: “My Torah portion is from Genesis, from the story of Joseph,” Giffords explained to the Forward. “If you know Vayeshev, you know it begins ‘And he lived.’ Any story that begins ‘and he lived’ is good with me. I lived. Everything afterwards is a gift.”

Brotherhood News



Watch the Weekly Update for information about future Brotherhood events that are being planned, including a Discussion Group and a Movie Discussion Night, both to be conducted by Zoom.



CBJ Brotherhood Annual Food Drive for The Greater Plymouth Food Warehouse

Most...if not all of us, are fortunate in not having to rely on the generosity of others to feed our families. With that in mind, as an integral part of Tikkun Olam, we must feel the need to once again give when the need is there.

We are at that time of year where we give “Thanks” for the abundance that we continue to acquire and enjoy. However, there are those in our community who don’t have (for a variety of reasons) the bare minimum, much less the luxuries that many of us have come to take for granted. So we are once again asking our CBJ community to show their gratitude and generosity by giving to this worthy cause. In the past six years, with your overwhelming generosity, we’ve been able to donate over \$7,200 worth of supermarket gift cards to The Greater Plymouth Food Warehouse. These donations have gone a long way in helping to supplement the efforts of the South Shore Community Action Council to feed those in our Plymouth community who need it most.

Whatever you can afford would be much appreciated and once again would prove that Congregation Beth Jacob is a vital and caring part of America’s Hometown.

Please make out your check to “CBJ Brotherhood” with the subject line reading: “Food Donation Drive” and send it to Seth Teles, 31 Birch Avenue, Plymouth, MA 02360. Consider it a mitzvah for the new year.

Thank you.



SISTERHOOD NEWS

Upcoming events are our Tu B'Shevat Seder, a wine tasting with a talk by Rabbi Mills on What Makes a Wine Kosher; a program about Rosh Chodesh; and a program from the Mikvah in Newton. We are going to do our best to do hybrid events whenever possible.

An Appeal for New Leadership!

As many of you already know, Suzanne Goldberg, our tireless leader for many years, will be spending the winter months in Florida. Although her plans are indefinite at this point and she may return to Massachusetts in mid-May, Suzanne may ultimately decide to make Florida her permanent home. She has asked Sisterhood members to please step up and take over the responsibility for conducting one or more of Sisterhood's programs, with help from Cindy Teles and Rose Litchman, and, of course, from Rabbi Mills.



Congregation Beth Jacob gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following donations:

General Fund:

- Richard Serkey - in honor of Larry Winokur's 80th birthday
- Susan Resnick - in memory of the members of the Resnick family whose Yahrzeits are commemorated in December, 2021 and January, 2022: Pauline Resnick; David Resnick; Simon Resnick; Samuel Resnick; William Resnick; and Ida Resnick.

Yahrzeit Fund:

- Barbara Aharoni & Harry Shamir - in memory of Harry's father, Haim
- Pam & Paul Sechoka - in memory of Pam's father, Edwin Goldberg
- Susan Basiri - in memory of her father, Edwin Goldberg
- Allan & Judith Sherman - in memory of Judith's father, Max Krenis, and Allan's father, Louis Sherman
- Phyllis Klasky - in memory of her father, Mel Klasky
- Ronnie Hirschhorn - in memory of Dan's father, Nathan Hirschhorn
- Lois Klasky - in memory of her husband, Mel Klasky

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:

The Kassalow Family (good friends of Rabbi Estelle Mills, from Annandale, Virginia) - in honor of her Installation

Sisterhood Diaper Drive:

- Ronnie Hirschhorn
- Anne Geller
- Rose Litchman
- Susan Basiri

Beit Sefer: A donation has been received from the Sadye Gereboff Fund for the purpose of hiring a new teacher for next year.



The Following Yahrzeits Will be Observed This Month:

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

January, 2022

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3 Mendel Aranowitz | 14 Reina Etta Feinberg |
| 4 David Resnick | 14 Bernard Riback |
| 4 Simon Resnick | 15 Morris Rodman |
| 4 Rebecca Shriber | 16 Stephen Goldberg |
| 5 Ruth Bornstein Strauss | 16 Mae Hirschhorn |
| 5 Emil N. Winkler | 16 Eva Rosenberg |
| 6 Alan Koplan | 17 Sadie Stein |
| 6 Louis Policow | 18 Harold Hoffman |
| 7 Irene Toabe Fagen | 18 Arthur Kallman |
| 7 Joseph Rains | 18 Ida B. Resnick |
| 7 Samuel Resnick | 19 Kay Levenson-Meltzer |
| 8 Philip Aranowitz | 20 Harry Guttman |
| 8 Arthur Goodman | 24 Rose Gottman |
| 9 Lawrence Friedman | 24 Abraham Jacob Toabe |
| 9 Fred Greenbaum | 25 Rabbi Abraham Hirsch Carlin |
| 9 William Lewis | 25 Rina Strumsky Shamir |
| 9 Michel Toabe | 27 Sarah Litcofsky |
| 10 Karin Goldstein | 28 Saul Dezorett |
| 10 Seymore Horenstein | 28 Frank Gladstein |
| 10 Annie Mankoff | 29 Max Kramer |
| 10 Barbara Righter | 29 Helen Rice |
| 11 Shirley Greenbaum | 29 Edward Romanow |
| 11 William David Resnick | 29 Connie Van Tosh |
| 11 Charles Righter | 30 Beatrice Feinberg |
| 12 Hannah Cooper | 30 Hilda Keil Toabe |
| 13 Benjamin M. Feinberg | 31 Stanley Nydell |
| 13 Manuel Kalaminsky | |
| 13 Mildred Koplan | |
| 13 Angy Moore | |

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

Tu B'shevat (The Jewish Festival of Trees) January 16-17, 2022



Tu B'Sh What?

It's funny how many people — Jewish ones included — don't know about Tu B'Shevat. The most beautiful holiday you've never heard of, it's well worth learning about and celebrating. Tu BiShevat is a Jewish holiday occurring on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat. It is also called Rosh HaShanah La'llanot, literally 'New Year of the Trees'. In contemporary Israel, the day is celebrated as an ecological awareness day, and trees are planted in celebration. These days, people often refer to Tu B'Shevat as "the Jewish Arbor Day." Indeed, according to the Mishnah (Jewish oral law), it is the new year of the trees. The holiday, which this year falls on January 16th, is celebrated with a Seder: participants read from a Haggadah and drink four glasses of wine.

While the menus and the topics of conversation vary widely, they focus in some way on the celebration of agriculture, renewal and, more recently, ecology and conservation. The meal features the seven species — or fruits — of Israel: pomegranates, dates, barley, figs, olives, grapes and wheat. These are incorporated into the dishes being served and are often used to decorate the table.



The Tu B'shevat Seder

Jewish kabbalists (mystics) in the 16th and 17th centuries created a special ritual, modeled after the Passover seder, which celebrated God's presence in the natural world. As the rituals and readings for the Tu BiShevat seder developed, they were eventually collected into a book, Pri Eitz Hadar, (The Fruit of the Goodly Tree), which was published in 1753. But you don't need to be a mystic to create your own Tu BiShevat seder! Here is what you will need:

The Tu B'shevat Hagaddah:

[To download and print the 16-page Hagaddah, click here.](#)

In addition, you will need the following:

WHITE AND RED GRAPE JUICE OR WINE (ENOUGH FOR FOUR SMALL GLASSES PER PERSON)

A Tu BiShvat seder, full of imagery and symbolism, is often divided into four sections that represent the four seasons. As with the Passover seder, the Tu BiShvat seder evolved to include four cups of wine or grape juice, but in varying shades of red, which represent the seasons: white for the bleak time of winter, white with a bit of red to represent the earth's awakening in early spring, red with a bit of white representing the blossoming of late spring, and dark red to represent the fullness of all the growing plants and vegetation along with the heat of summer.

For adult or older teen participants, the seder are sometimes also divided into four mystical "spheres," each of which represents a different relationship between humans and the earth: Assiya (Actualization), Yetzira (Formation), Beriah (Creation), and Atzilut (Nobility.)

TASTINGS OF THREE CATEGORIES OF FRUITS OR NUTS

- Those with an inedible outer covering and edible inside: melons, nuts, pomegranates, coconuts, citrus, bananas, etc.
- Those with an edible outside but inedible pit inside: dates, olives, plums, peaches, apples, avocados, nectarines, pears, etc.
- Those that are entirely edible: berries, figs, grapes, etc. These categories are said to represent different seasons and/or ways of being in the world, often following kabbalistic categories.

Recipe for Seven Species Muffins

(from Tori Avey's website - toriavey.com)



These scrumptious muffins include the Seven Species of the Torah - Wheat, Barley, Fig, Date, Pomegranate, Olive, Grape. Kosher, Pareve (serves 12)

INGREDIENTS

3/4 cup golden raisins
1/2 cup dried figs
1/2 cup dates
1 1/4 cups unsweetened almond milk
1/4 cup applesauce
1 tsp cinnamon
1/2 tsp allspice
2 large eggs
1/3 cup light olive oil
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
1 1/2 cups all purpose flour (3/4 cup all purpose + 3/4 cup whole wheat flour will work too)
1/2 cup barley flour
2 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp baking soda
1/4 tsp salt
3/4 cup pomegranate seeds
1/2 cup chopped walnuts
Nonstick cooking spray or paper muffin tin liners

Topping Ingredients (optional)

2 tbsp turbinado sugar
1/4 tsp cinnamon

INSTRUCTIONS

If your raisins are particularly dry, cover them with water and bring to a boil. As soon as the water boils, turn off the heat and let the raisins sit in the water to plump for 10 minutes. Drain and pat dry with a paper towel.

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. If your figs have tough stems on them, remove them and discard. Roughly chop dates and figs. Set aside.

Use a blender or food processor to blend together the following ingredients until very smooth: dates, figs, almond milk, applesauce, cinnamon and allspice. It may take a couple of minutes to blend all ingredients to a smooth consistency, depending on the power of your blender. The end result should be similar to the texture of apple butter or smooth fruit preserves. Set mixture aside.

In a medium mixing bowl, whisk together eggs, light olive oil, sugar, brown sugar, and vanilla extract.

In a large mixing bowl, sift together flour, barley flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Gently mix the pomegranate seeds into the dry mixture, making sure the seeds are well coated with flour.

Make a well in the middle of the dry ingredients. Pour the fruit mixture from the blender into the well. Add the egg mixture to the well.

Fold the dry ingredients into the wet ingredients until the dry ingredients are just moistened and a lumpy batter forms. Do not overmix - if you do your muffins will turn out heavy and dense.

Fold raisins and chopped walnuts into the muffin batter with a light-handed stir.

Prep your muffin pan by spraying a small amount of nonstick cooking spray into the bottom of each muffin tin (not the sides), or use paper muffin cup liners. Divide batter equally into muffin cups, filling each cup to the top and mounding the surface slightly. I've found that it's easiest to do this using an ice cream scoop.

If you'd like to top the muffins, mix the sugar and cinnamon together in a small bowl using a fork. Sprinkle about a ½ tsp of cinnamon sugar mixture evenly across the surface of each muffin. Place muffins in the oven and immediately turn heat down to 375 degrees F. That extra heat blast at the beginning of the baking cycle will help to activate the baking powder and baking soda. Bake for 25-27 minutes until the tops of the muffins are golden brown and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Let muffins cool for 10 minutes before removing from the tin and cooling on a rack. Do not let the muffins cool completely in the tin, they are quite moist and may stick to the tin if you leave them there too long. Serve warm.

Nutrition Facts

Amount Per Serving

Calories 327 Calories from Fat 90

% Daily Value*

Fat 10g	15%	Sugar 33g	37%
Saturated Fat 1g	6%	Protein 5g	10%
Cholesterol 31mg	10%	Vitamin A 45IU	1%
Sodium 153mg	7%	Vitamin C 1.4mg	2%
Potassium 343mg	10%	Calcium 109mg	11%
Carbohydrates 55g	18%	Iron 1.7mg	9%
Fiber 3g	13%		

* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2000 calorie diet.

Editor's Note: "The Tent" (formerly named 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 Tent" and "CBJ Weekly Update"