



THE TENT

Congregation Beth Jacob's Monthly Newsletter
December, 2023



CBJ Calendar of Upcoming Events:

December 1: RSVPs are due for Family Chanukah Dinner and Service (see article for details)
December 1, 7:00 pm: Erev Shabbat Service (Zoom only)

December 3, 9:00 a.m.: Bus leaves Plymouth for a special tour and program at Boston's community Mikvah, with lunch at a Newton Jewish Deli. See the article for details!

December 7th - December 15th: Chanukah!

December 7-14th, 7-7:20 pm: Throughout the eight nights of Hanukkah, join rabbis from across North America as they tell stories, sing songs, and share reflections on the festival of lights. Set up your own hanukkiyah in a safe, visible place so that we can kindle the Hanukkah lights and celebrate together at the end of each gathering.

Register through the URJ urj.tfaforms.net/901?id=7014u000001dzkC

December 8, 6:00 pm: Family Chanukah Dinner at the Loring Center (see details in the article)
December 8, 7:00 pm: Chanukah Erev Shabbat Service led by our Beit Sefer students (in-person and by Zoom)

Menorah Lighting Schedule:

December 7, 6:30 pm - 1st night of Chanukah: Menorah Lighting, Town Hall Lawn (gelt and hot chocolate with songs)

December 8, 6:00 pm - 2nd Night of Chanukah: Family latke Dinner and Beit Sefer Service, Loring Center (consecration for students in 3 & 4th grade, latke dinner, games, donut decorating)

December 10, 4:00 pm - 4th Night of Chanukah: Menorah Lighting & Gelt Drop, Town Hall Lawn (Plymouth firefighters will drop gelt from the fire truck ladder for the kids to catch and gather)

December 14, 6:30 pm - 8th Night of Chanukah: Menorah Lighting, Town Hall Lawn.

December 15, 7:00 pm: Erev Shabbat Service (by Zoom)

December 22, 7:00 pm: Erev Shabbat Service (in person and by Zoom)

December 29, 7:00 pm: Erev Shabbat Service (by Zoom)

See the "CBJ Weekly Update" for details and links.

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



Hanukkah Begins on December 7th!

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

<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, hei, 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.”

CELEBRATE



AT THE
LORING
CENTER

CHANUKAH

Friday, December 8



6:00 pm: Family Chanukah Service
7:00 pm: Latkes, Chicken, Salad, and More Dinner

RSVP by December 1 for the Dinner

RSVP@cbjpymouth.org

Member price: \$18 adult, \$10 children 12 and under

Non-member price: \$25 adult, \$15 children 12 and under

Vegatarian Entree Available by Request

Learn something new about Chanukah at our Student-Led Service

Made with PosterMyWall.com

SOUND BYTES FOR 8 NIGHTS

HANUKKAH AT HOME WITH URJ SMALL CONGREGATIONS

For the eight nights of Hanukkah, **December 7-14**, join rabbis from across North America as they tell stories, sing songs, and share reflections on the festival of lights.

Set up your own Hanukkiyah in a safe, visible place as we will kindle the Hanukkah lights and celebrate together at the end of each Zoom gathering.

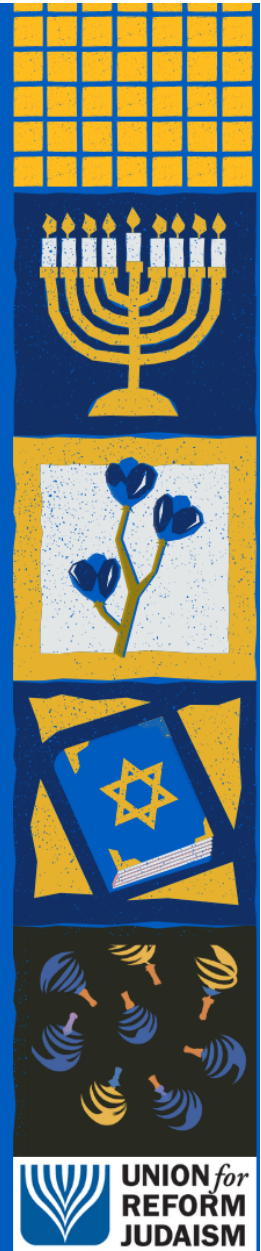
Register for free at the link below. Please note that the times and links are the same for each night.

7pm ET | 6pm CT | 5pm MT | 4pm PT



Rabbi Neal Katz | Rabbi Jennifer Weiner | Rabbi Shoshana Nambi
Rabbi Ellen Nemhauser | Rabbi Elizabeth Bahar | Rabbi Rebecca Dubowe
Rabbi Jeff Goldwasser | Rabbi Heather Miller

register @ 25Kislev.com



Sound Bytes for Eight Nights: Hanukkah at Home with CCAR Small Congregations **December 7-14th, 7-7:20 pm**

Throughout the eight nights of Hanukkah, join rabbis from across North America as they tell stories, sing songs, and share reflections on the festival of lights. Set up your own hanukkiyah in a safe, visible place so that we can kindle the Hanukkah lights and celebrate together at the end of each gathering.

Register at www.25Kislev.com
or through the URJ at urj.tfaforms.net/901?id=7014u000001dzkC



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**

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

Introduction to Judaism Class Starting in January



Starting in January, Rabbi Mills will be starting a new Introduction to Judaism class for those interested in converting. The time and day will be determined by those who express an interest in taking the class. Please send an email to Rabbi Mills at cbjplymouthrabbi@gmail.com if you are interested. Include your phone number and preferred day of the week/time for the class.

This class is also open to all congregants who may wish to learn more about Judaism.



Have you wanted to learn to chant from the Torah?

Join CBJ's Zoom Trope Class

Classes will be on an evening to be decided among those expressing interest

Prerequisite: the ability to read Hebrew
Classes Taught by Helena Mills

**email cbjpymouthrabbi@gmail.com
with questions or to sign up!!**

When Torah portions are chanted, various melodies and inflections are assigned for each phrase. These are referred to as Tropes. Helena Mills is our expert Torah chanter and will be teaching a class on how to chant from the Torah, by Zoom. The day of the week for the class and the time will be decided by participants.

Please send an email to cbjpymouthrabbi@gmail.com if you are interested in participating.



A Way to Make a Meaningful and Lasting Contribution

You may honor a special occasion or make a lasting contribution in memory of a loved one by donating a copy of Mishkan T'filah, our Shabbat and Festival Prayer Book. The price for each book is \$42.00. Bookplates with the acknowledgment of the dedication will be placed inside the front cover of each donated prayer book. For additional information, please contact Rabbi Mills. cbjplymouthrabbi@gmail.com.

If you wish to contribute, please send your check, payable to Congregation Beth Jacob, with "Prayer Book Donation" in the memo line, to:

Congregation Beth Jacob
Attention: Treasurer
P.O. Box 3284
Plymouth, MA 02361



Brotherhood Bowling!

The 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the Month at 4:30 pm at Kingston Ten Pins

We'll be bowling the first and third Wednesday of every month at 5:30 pm. We bowl 3 strings and pay only the special rate of \$4.50/string. You don't need to have any equipment, as bowling shoe rental is available for a small additional fee, and there is a large selection of balls to use. 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 or Arnold Gladstein at aralglad@verizon.net and let us know if you would like to join us. Is your spouse or significant other welcome? Of course!



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. Are you willing to take over the compilation and editing of our annual Yizkor Book? 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



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. Please contact Barbara Aharoni (ahabubs@gmail.com) if you would like to host an Oneg following one of our in-person services. Barbara 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!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Welcome to Our Newest Members!

Sam and Niki Cahn
59 Cooke Road, Plymouth

Sam, Niki and their two children, Jordan and Theodore, moved to Plymouth about 2 years ago. Sam is a software engineer and game developer who is designing and creating educational games and media that can improve the lives of special education students.

Jordan is in the 5th grade, and Theodore is in the 1st grade. Both are looking forward to attending our Beit Sefer.

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. [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:

Allan & Judith Sherman - in memory of Judith's father, Max Krenis

Allan & Judith Sherman - in memory of Allan's father, Louis Sherman

Beit Sefer News



Students at CBJ's Religious School 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 an engaging and creative way.

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. Continuing Jewish education is encouraged through Confirmation and engagement with Jewish Youth Groups in the Greater South Shore area .

Updated School Calendar for 2023-2024

[Click here to see the School Calendar for 2023-2024.](#)

Topics for Upcoming Beit Sefer Classes

December 3, 2023 Session 7: Conversion/Mikvah

December 10, 2023 Session 8: Chanukah/ Chanukiah

December 17, 2023 Session 9: Death and Mourning Rituals

December 24, 2023 NO SCHOOL: Winter Break

December 31, 2023 NO SCHOOL: Winter Break



**The Next Sisterhood Meeting
Monday, December 11th, at 7:00 pm by Zoom**

Regular Monthly Sisterhood Meetings: will be 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 book discussion, a game night, a pot luck lunch, getting together for a movie/restaurant, 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 Dues Notice for 2023-2024

For almost 70 years, CBJ Sisterhood has been an essential part of CBJ, providing the link that binds together long-term members with newer members of our congregation. Being part of Sisterhood provides a great way to be introduced to and get to know the members of CBJ. We pray together, study together and, yes, we have fun together. Although the Covid pandemic had affected our ability to meet for the past 2 years, Sisterhood has resumed holding interesting and informative monthly meetings as we celebrate holidays together and raise funds for the benefit of our synagogue.

In the past, Sisterhood has provided support to our young students in the Beit Sefer program by sponsoring our Pizza in the Hut for Sukkot, as well as the annual Chanukah and Purim Parties. Sisterhood provides all of the supplies for the Temple kitchen; sponsors Onegs throughout the year, and helps us all to celebrate the various holidays in the Jewish calendar by providing appropriate holiday foods for the Oneg table. In addition, as its ongoing tzedakah commitment, Sisterhood supports the Kiva project, an international organization that provides loans for women to open new businesses, purchase livestock to sustain food supplies and become financially independent in countries such as Guatemala, Honduras, Ghana, The Philippines, The Congo, Uganda and Fiji. To learn more about Kiva, click here: <https://www.kiva.org> and <https://www.kiva.org/lend-by-category/women>

Sisterhood donates \$2500.00 to the Temple each year! We can't do it alone. We need your financial support. Please become a member of Sisterhood.

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.



WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN CBJ's BROTHERHOOD

Over the 100 year history of CBJ, Brotherhood has established itself as an essential part of this congregation...this community. Our mantra has been: "to do everything we can to help this synagogue grow and flourish....and have fun doing it."

Under the leadership of Brotherhood's new President, Louis Goldman, we are looking forward to resuming those "sumptuous" Brotherhood Breakfasts with their intriguing and informative guest speakers. Brotherhood is planning monthly Discussion Group meetings and has already revived our Movie Discussion Nights, to which all members of the congregation are invited. Brotherhood has also restarted their bowling nights on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. This is an excellent opportunity for members to bond and share the often hilarious experience of what is loosely called "bowling." (You don't have to be an expert bowler to join the fun - just have a sense of humor!)

Brotherhood also provides $\frac{3}{4}$ of its treasury to our synagogue. Between our fundraisers and your dues, we have been able to contribute \$2,500 to CBJ's General Fund in each of the last few years, with the exception of the Covid pandemic. In addition, CBJ Brotherhood has been the catalyst for providing over \$7,200 in gift cards to the Greater Plymouth Food Warehouse.

Please become a member of CBJ Brotherhood so that we can continue this much needed help for our beloved CBJ as well as our extended Plymouth community.

NAME _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

AREAS OF INTEREST _____

Talent(s) that you would be willing to share _____

If you have any new ideas for programming or Brotherhood activities for the coming year, we look forward to hearing them. If you prefer being non-participatory, we still welcome and look forward to your membership. We thank you for your generous support.

Basic Membership (\$25)____ Mitzvah Membership (\$36)____

Make your check payable to: CBJ Brotherhood

Please indicate "Dues Payment" and mail to:

Seth Teles, 31 Birch Avenue, Plymouth, MA 02360



**The Following Yahrzeits Will be Observed This
Month:**

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

December

1 Rebecca Lotta Koblantz	13 Max Penn
2 Alice S. Resnick	14 Nathan Hirschhorn
2 Stanley Resnick	17 Henry Manuel Kesselman
2 Ruth Righter	17 Max Winter
2 Irving Lawrence Shuman	18 Anna B. Toabe
3 Samuel Matross	19 Florence Dezorett
3 Albert (Al) Sarke	19 Anne Lois (Kalm) Elowitz
3 Julius Sepet	20 Abraham C. Goldman
3 Haim (Carlo) Shamir	22 Samuel Arons
3 Elizabeth Van West Sokolow	22 Louis Coffman
3 Eleanor Weiss	22 Edwin Goldberg
4 Harry Glassman	22 Jacob Steinberg
5 Harold Ross	25 Frank Kabelsky
6 Esther Greenspoon	26 William Smick
6 Ann Winkler	27 Albert Keil
7 Frances D. Kaufman	28 Rhoda Burstein
7 Melvin Klasky	28 Louis Sherman
7 Max Krenis	29 Elaine Winter Brown
7 Tina Liss	29 Kay Hodosh Falstein
8 Harry Koblantz	29 Harvey Limon
8 Frieda Roe	29 Ruth Ross
10 Harold Michael Resnick	30 Samuel Gereboff
10 Aba Taub	31 Helen Evans
11 Stanley Guttman	31 Jacob Joseph Fortunow
11 Sylvia Righter	31 Adeline Winokur
12 Marion Shuman	
13 Israel Edward Ginsburg	

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



Overnights of Hospitality Winter Emergency Shelter

The Plymouth Area Interfaith Council Association (PAICA) needs your help!

Starting Sunday, November 26, The Plymouth Taskforce to End Homelessness, in collaboration with the Fr. Bill's and Mainspring (FBMS) organization, will offer winter emergency shelter to 20-25 single individuals through Saturday, March 30. We can't continue this important ministry without your help. We need volunteer chaperones to commit to giving one evening of their time from 5pm-11pm to provide support to the Fr. Bill's staff person and to show our unhoused neighbors that they are not forgotten. We who have volunteered in the past have been touched by the appreciation shown by many of the guests. It has been a very rewarding experience!

Two people are needed at the shelter at all times. There will be two Fr. Bill's staff from 11pm to 7am, so the volunteer chaperone is only needed for the evening until the second staff person arrives.

The shelter rotates weekly among three congregations beginning Sunday, November 26 through Saturday, March 30 - 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 chaperone, go to <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/k4w5gd>

To review the chaperone guidelines, go to <https://plymouth-taskforce-homeless.org/volunteer/>

If you have questions, please call Connie Melahoures, President of the Plymouth Taskforce to End Homelessness at 508.367.0516 or email conmel@aol.com.

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.