



THE TENT

Congregation Beth Jacob's Monthly Newsletter
March, 2026



CBJ Calendar of Upcoming Events:

March 2, 3:00 pm: Social Justice in Our Texts Program - "Speaking Up to Power: Learning From Esther," Monday, March 2 at 3pm with Rabbi Laura Rappaport. By Zoom. Free for everyone but registration is required. See the article for details.

March 6, Shabbat Family Purim Service (hybrid)
6:00 pm: Purim Potluck Dinner ([SIGN UP HERE](#))
7:00 pm: Service

The Oneg is being sponsored by the family of Margot Alison Roache in honor of her babynaming (Menucha Shoshana bat Malka Chanah.) Tamar Baker, the baby's grandmother, will be bringing fresh hamantaschen and other Jewish bakery goodies from Long Island, NY!

March 9, 7:00 pm: Sisterhood meeting (Zoom)

March 11, 7:00-8:00 pm - Introduction to Judaism Class (by Zoom) See the article for details and a link to request the Zoom link)

March 12, 7:00-8:00 pm - Mussar Study Course (by Zoom) See the article for details and Zoom link.

March 14, 10:00 am: Shabbat Morning Service with Torah Study and bagel brunch (at the Plymouth Public Library Board Room. Please rsvp if you plan to attend. (rsvp@cbjplymouth.org) (in person only) Thank you to Sisterhood for sponsoring the bagel brunch!

March 20, 7:00 pm: Erev Shabbat Service featuring Rachmiel, at the home of Jack & Nora Luftman. RSVP to get the address and driving directions. (rsvp@cbjplymouth.org)

March 27, **7:30 pm**: South Shore Erev Shabbat service **at Sha'aray Shalom in Hingham** (hybrid)

Save the Dates!

April 2, 5:30 pm: CBJ's Passover Second Seder at the 1620 Hotel. Watch for details!

Saturday, April 25, 2:00 pm - Join us for the screening of A TREE OF LIFE: THE PITTSBURGH SYNAGOGUE SHOOTING, in the Fehlow Meeting Room at the Plymouth Public Library. This film creates a deeply personal, trauma-informed portrait of the survivors, victims, and victims' family members of the Pittsburgh Synagogue attack on October 27, 2018, and brings into sharp focus the hate-based crisis that threatens our collective safety and the very social fabric of our society. As the first film to document the survivor's stories and the only documentary with this level of personal access to the survivors and families of the victims, viewers will experience first-hand how the lives of those directly affected have profoundly changed and how the Pittsburgh community and the congregations set out on a path towards healing.

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

Introduction to Judaism Class



**Wednesdays, February 4-May 13
7:00-8:00 pm on Zoom.**

[Click HERE to Request the Zoom link.](#)

Why do we pray? How do we pray? What do our prayers mean? Do we simply mouth Hebrew words by memory or do we understand them? Come to our Introduction to Judaism class to learn more!

The class is being taught by Rabbi Mills, together with Barbara Aharoni. All are welcome.

The fee is \$150 for Non-Members (which will be applied as a credit if the participant joins the congregation); free for members of CBJ who would like to learn more about Judaism.

Financial hardship scholarships are available. Please email Rabbi Estelle Mills at cjplymouthrabbi@gmail.com for any financial assistance.

There is no requirement to attend every week. Classes will be recorded for students to rewatch any missed sessions. However, these recordings will not be made public. They will be made available, upon request.



REFLECTIONS FROM THE RABBI: Be Happy! It's Adar!

Our tradition tells us that during the Hebrew month of Adar, the month of Purim, we should be happy. I think most of us feel that happiness is not something that we can just turn on or off at will. There are times that we feel so sad that we can't imagine ever smiling again. There are also times that we feel so happy that we forget that we ever felt sad. Most of our lives are spent somewhere in between those two extremes.

So what did our Sages have in mind? Did they really think we could be "happy" at the drop of a hat or the banging of a gragger? For some of us, it might seem a paradox that we are being commanded to be happy. Both joy and sadness are feelings that creep into our hearts unexpectedly. We hardly ever think of them as the result of a conscious decision. I think all of us would choose to be happy if only it were that simple.

So what is all this talk of well-intentioned happiness over the month of Adar and the anticipation of Purim? Perhaps it's the Jewish take on "the glass half empty or half full" philosophy.. When you really think about the Purim story, there is a degree of sadness. In fact, Purim was the first act in a play that has run through the entirety of Jewish existence and summed is up in the Jewish joke, "They tried to kill us, they failed, now let's eat."

Haman hated us because we were different. He called us "outsiders." He said we should not be included in society because of our beliefs. His words were repeated over and over by generations of those who hated us for no other reason than our very existence. For that, we have suffered over and over again. And Jew-hatred is not just part of our history. Incidents of Antisemitism continue to increase throughout the world, with the United States not being immune to this trend.

Just this past week, three elderly Jewish women wearing Stars of David were expelled from the Reina Sofía National Museum of Art in Madrid. The women, one of whom is a Holocaust survivor, were verbally harassed by some of the visitors who shouted "Genocide", "Child killers" and "Murderers!" Some visitors also said they were "disturbed" by the three women's presence. Instead of removing the other visitors, the museum staff asked the women to leave. Good reason to be sad. Good reason to be saddened by a pain that has plagued our people in every time and place.

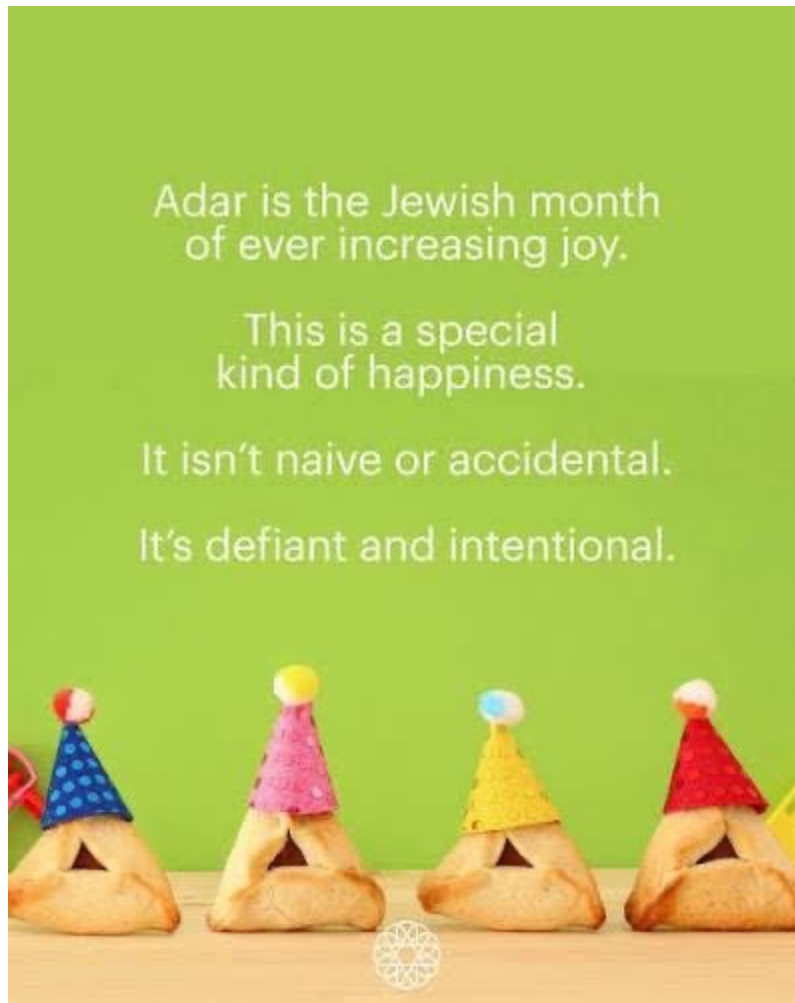
But to that temptation our Sages said "No". We should not be sad, but instead happy. We need to see the glass as "half full. We need to remember that Hamen failed, and those who came after him also failed. The Jewish people still exist. We are here to tell the story of Puirm and blot out Hamen's name. We choose to celebrate our victory and to make light of the threats we have faced; whether by Hamen or Hitler. God said to Abraham "Those who bless you shall be blessed and those who curse you shall be cursed" Our tradition commands us to find the joy in Purim because it is always better to celebrate than to mourn. Purim reminds us to choose to celebrate the joy of being Jewish and to celebrate life. Despite all that we as Jews have faced,

we are still around, telling and retelling the story of Purim each year and having fun, being happy because we can.

So now to end on a happy note- some Purim Humor:

Ten Jews entered a restaurant and all ordered a steak.
What do you call it when ten Jews order steak?

A filet minyan. (bada boom!)



Look at CBJ's Magnificent New Ark Curtain!



It's almost done! All that's left to do is to complete the dedication and the border design at the bottom! To see all of the photos showing the creation of this beautiful work of art, [click HERE.](#) or <https://photos.app.goo.gl/7VMhZ7ShSxDPRPSXA>

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

Social Justice in our Texts

Jewish Wisdom for Building a Better World

צדק
tzedeq
justice

A monthly 1-hour study session - free and open to all
Programs are Mondays at 3pm ET / Noon PT

 <p>Human Rights, Jewish Roots Rabbi Gabriel Kanter-Webber September 15, 2025</p>	 <p>Prophetic Voices Then and Now Rabbi Barbara Symons October 20, 2025</p>
 <p>Bodily Autonomy & Reproductive Rights Rabbi Cookie Lea Olshein November 17, 2025</p>	 <p>Repairing the World: Tikkun Olam as a Mystical Praxis Rabbi Leah Moser December 8, 2025</p>
 <p>The Torah of Reparations Jordan Berg Powers January 12, 2026</p>	 <p>Jewish Responses to Climate Change Rabbi Glenn Jacob February 2, 2026</p>
 <p>Speaking Up to Power: Learning From Esther Rabbi Laura Rappaport March 2, 2026</p>	 <p>What We Leave for the Poor Rabbi Barry Block Thursday, April 23, 2026</p>
 <p>The Right to Live, The Right to Die Rabbi Sylvia Rothschild May 11, 2026</p>	 <p>Protecting LGBTQ+ Rights: A Jewish View Rabbi Micah Buck June 8, 2026</p>



For LGBTQ+ equality in Jewish life



The Next Program:
Speaking Up to Power: Learning From Esther
Monday, March 2 at 3pm
With Rabbi Laura Rappaport

Vashti, Mordechai and Esther all speak up for justice and righteousness in the book of Esther in different ways. Their approaches don't all prove effective. How does the book help inform our own choices when faced with injustice?

Speaking Up to Power: Learning From Esther



***Monday, March 2
3pm Eastern on Zoom***

***With Rabbi
Laura Rappaport***

Part of the “Social Justice in Our Texts” Series



Free and open to all, but registration is required.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)

laasok.org/current-offerings/#justice

Oh No! Did You Miss the Bus?



Did you miss the presentation by Rabbi Glenn Jacob for Jewish Responses to Climate Change? ” No worries!

Click on the link below for the YouTube recording.

<https://youtu.be/VHHmac6Nhns>

It's Time for Purim! March 2 - March 3, 2026



PURIM'S ORIGINS

With celebrations including costumes, skits and songs, noisemakers, and gifts of food, Purim is definitely full of fun! Purim is a joyous holiday that affirms and celebrates Jewish survival and continuity throughout history. The main communal celebration involves a public reading—usually in the synagogue—of the Book of Esther (M'gillat Esther), which tells the story of the holiday: Under the rule of King Ahashverosh, Haman, the king's adviser, plots to exterminate all of the Jews of Persia. His plan is foiled by Queen Esther and her cousin Mordechai, who ultimately save the Jews of Persia from destruction. The reading of the m'gillah typically is a rowdy affair, punctuated by booing and noise-making when Haman's name is read aloud.

Purim is an unusual holiday in many respects. First, Esther is the only biblical book in which God is not mentioned. Second, Purim, like Hanukkah, is viewed as a minor festival according to

Jewish custom, but has been elevated to a major holiday as a result of the Jewish historical experience. Over the centuries, Haman has come to symbolize every anti-Semite in every land where Jews were oppressed. The significance of Purim lies not so much in how it began, but in what it has become: a thankful and joyous affirmation of Jewish survival.



HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN GROGGER (NOISEMAKER)

<https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/purim/make-your-own-grogger-noisemaker-purim>



COSTUMES

As part of the carnival-like atmosphere of Purim, many children and adults wear costumes. Some attribute this tradition to the fact that Esther initially “masked” her Jewish identity. Now a vibrant and widely practiced custom, some choose to dress as characters from the Purim story, while others select Jewish heroes from throughout history.

Ideas for making simple costumes are here:

<https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/purim/quick-costume-ideas-purim>

https://www.chabad.org/theJewishWoman/article_cdo/aid/477283/jewish/Homemade-Purim-Costume-Ideas.htm

and here: <https://rebekahlowin.com/diy-purim-costumes-for-kids/>



**Study the Weekly Torah Portion from a Mussar approach with Rabbi Mills
Thursdays, from 7:00-8:00 pm (by Zoom)
You Are Welcome to Join at Any Time!**

On Thursday evenings, Rabbi Mills has been leading a Torah study class that approaches each weekly Torah portion using the Jewish spiritual practice of Mussar, which focuses on personal ethical and spiritual growth, aims to cultivate virtues and improve one's character. It emphasizes self-reflection and mindful actions to align one's behavior with core Jewish values. The practice involves identifying areas for improvement (middot or soul traits) and developing a daily routine that includes a mantra, mindful action, and journaling. The class is interactive, with participants encouraged to share their experiences and insights with each other. Strong bonds of friendship have developed since the class started in early January, as we have met each week and learned more about each other. And perhaps that is one of the most important teachings: Discovering the importance of knowing and caring about others in our Jewish family and our community at large.

Mussar offers a framework and a toolkit for translating the philosophical wisdom of kabbalah into a personalized, ongoing spiritual discipline. Although compared to Mussar, Kabbalah is the more widely known branch of Jewish spirituality, Mussar is a more reachable way to incorporate spirituality into your life. (Before we can change the world, we must first strive to perfect ourselves.)

Recommended Text: The class is using Rabbi Barry Block's text: The Mussar Torah commentary which you can read more about and order using this link::

https://www.ccarpress.org/shopping_product_detail.asp?pid=50475

All individuals taking the class should consider purchasing this book since it will help you to follow along, **It is also available on Amazon.** Search for **The Mussar Torah Commentary: A Spiritual Path to Living a Meaningful and Ethical Life** by Rabbi Barry H. Block. The Kindle edition costs \$9.99.

To read more about this class and about Mussar, click below.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HVabTIdM6A1VL8GOqr4CmMIDVqAxNTdn/view?usp=sharing>

Pre-registration is not required. Each week's class is self-contained, so there is no need to commit to attend the entire course. You may attend whenever it is convenient.

The Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83422046402?pwd=NGWoLRbY7vz9FntslwWwbzU7XCn9J6.1>

Meeting ID: 834 2204 6402

Passcode: 208323

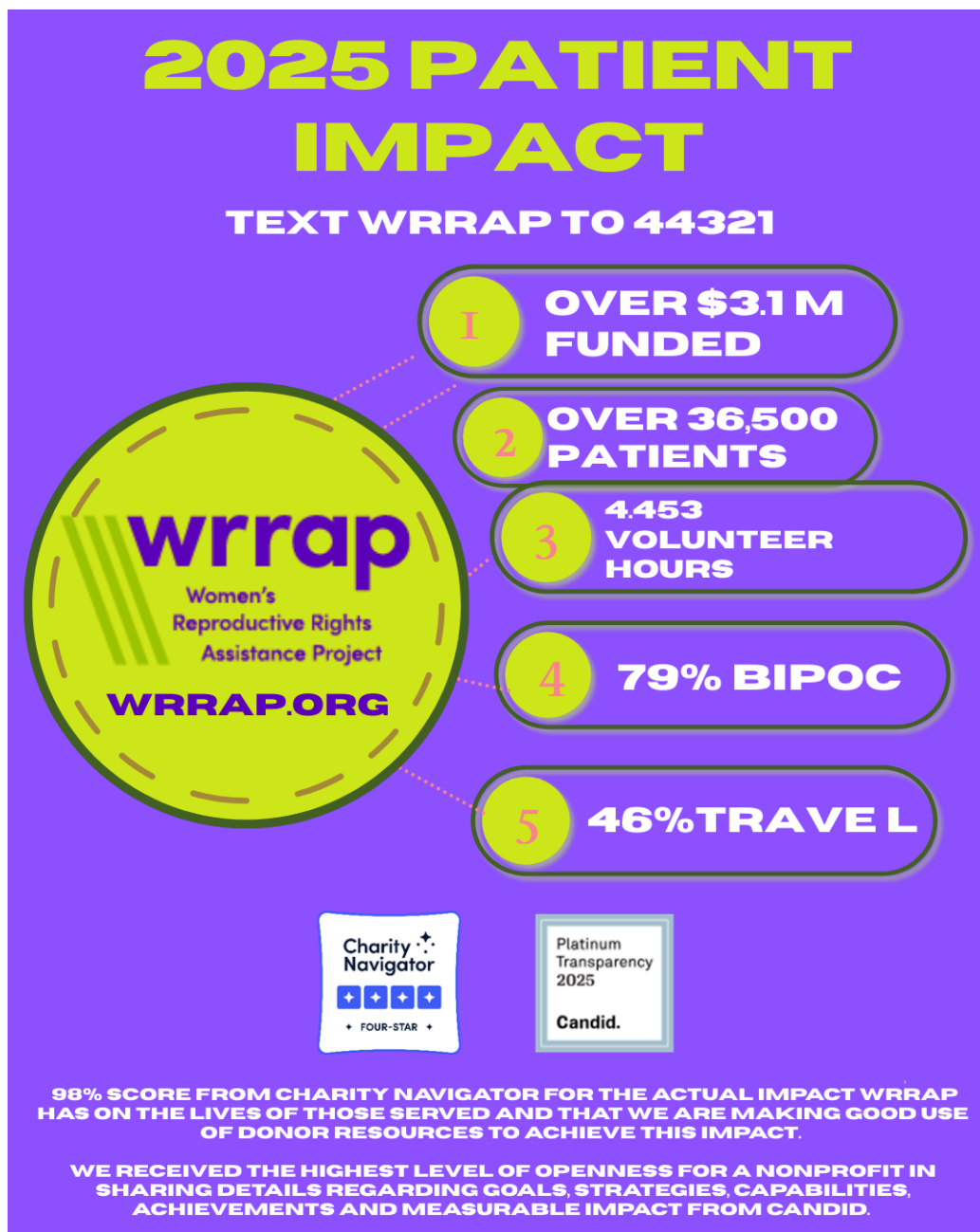
From CBJ's REPRO Shabbat Service on Friday, February 13th

On Friday, February 13th, when we joined with other Reform synagogues around the country to observe REPRO Shabbat, we were honored to have two outstanding guest speakers: Joyce Schorr, and Sylvia Ghazarian. Joyce is the Founder and President of WRRAP (Women's Reproductive Rights Assistance Project), and Sylvia is its Executive Director. Now in its 30th year, WRRAP remains a nationwide, independent safety net for low-income women and girls faced with ever-growing costs for abortion care. See WRRAP's Mission Statement below to learn what this remarkable organization is able to accomplish. WRRAP is a 501(c)3 non-profit. If you wish, you may make a donation at wrrap.org/donate.

Their address:

1902A Lincoln Boulevard, #1338, Santa Monica, CA 90405

Phone: 310.351.3027 Federal Tax ID: 95-4522977





CRAIGVILLE RETREAT:
Sound, Silence, and Deep Stillness on Cape Cod
With Aviva Chernick.
May 24-27, 2026

Sound, Silence and Stillness on Cape Cod is an invitation to dive inward through deep rest, stillness, tranquility and peace. Through experience including sacred sound and song, wisdom teaching, guided meditation and recurring periods of social silence, we may find the still, small voice within, the voice of Emet/Truth. Regularly scheduled periods of walking meditation, sitting meditation and social silence create the structure of the retreat and allow for deep integration of the practice.

Aviva Chernick

Aviva Chernick, our retreat teacher, is an award-winning singer and teacher of voice and meditation. She is known and widely admired for her riveting voice, inviting presence, and extraordinary weaving of ritual. For more information about Aviva, visit: Neyshev.com

Sponsor

This retreat is sponsored by a new organization, Menuchah on Cape Cod, created by Mark Russo and friends. Menuchah is a Hebrew word meaning deep rest, stillness, tranquility and peace. We aim to foster contemplative retreat experiences with particular emphasis on beautiful natural settings, warm hospitality, presence and dedicated practice.

Accommodations

Two options are available for this retreat: Residential or Commuter (both include all meals)

1. Costs for Residential Option staying in one of the Craigsville summer cottage rooms, most with dedicated bathrooms (includes accommodations, all meals, use of retreat facility)

*Single \$450 *Double \$500 *Triple or quad \$550

2. Cost for Commuter Retreat Option: (includes all meals and use of facility)

*\$400 (you make your own accommodations for the overnight stays; a list of nearby Bed and Breakfasts will be provided)

For Detailed Information, Registration Form, and listing of B&B's in the area for those who would like to arrange their own accommodations, [CLICK HERE](#). or on the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ULkNKyUbj1YDEbLce7HIHvvVXmfRH36z/view?usp=sharing>

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.

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 it 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](#).

- March 1: Purim Lesson (the last session in our Pleasant Street building!)
- March 8: Foods of Israel (We will begin meeting at the Robinson Center of Church of the Pilgrimage, which is very close to our current building.)
- March 15: Culture: Music and Sports
- March 22: Famous Modern Israelis
- March 29: Passover Lesson

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 include lunch.

The highlight of each year will be a trip 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 2026:

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.



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.

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



**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.

on the move

As we leave the past behind, we look forward to a bright future for CBJ in the year that lies ahead. The contents of the synagogue have been packed up and moved to a secure storage facility. During our transition year, we will hold in-person Shabbat services at Christ Church (on the corner of Court and Lothrop Streets in Plymouth, at the Plymouth Public Library, on Zoom, outdoors, and in congregants' homes. Beit Sefer classes will be held in Robinson Hall at the Church of the Pilgrimage. "God Provides!" For a while, we will be "wandering Jews," but we joyfully anticipate being in our new building by the end of the year. 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.

In the coming months, the land at our 279 Summer Street site will be cleared, and we will hire an architect to design our new Morton-style steel building to be constructed. 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. The photograph below of a Reform synagogue in Greenwich, Connecticut will give you a better idea of how our new building will look.



What You Should Know About CBJ's Temporary Home for Erev Shabbat Services During Our Transition

During the transition period while our new synagogue building is being constructed, Erev Shabbat Services will be held at Christ Church Parish, which is located at 149 Court Street in Plymouth (at the corner of Court and Lothrop Streets.)



Christ Church Parish is an Episcopal church, and we have been offered the use of their beautiful facilities, providing ample space for our Friday evening services and the use of their well-appointed kitchen and large social hall for our Onegs. We have been provided space to store our Torah, prayerbooks, and other ritual objects, and there are no Christian images or artifacts in the areas that we will be using.

After discussions with the leadership of Christ Church regarding an appropriate rental fee and after the CBJ Board had approved this monthly expenditure, we were overwhelmed with gratitude to receive the following message last week from The Reverend Melissa Howell:



Dear Rabbi Estelle,

A member of Christ Church wishes to anonymously donate the cost of Congregation Beth Jacob's Friday evening building use fees. The parishioner will pay Christ Church directly, and so there is no need for CBJ to make payment for Friday evenings at this time. We are so glad you will be with us.

*Peace,
Melissa*

As our long-time congregant and Membership Chair, Barbara Aharoni, often reminds us, "God Provides". The Reverend Howell's message is a testament to the goodness that still exists in our world. We are filled with hope and immense gratitude for the generosity of Christ Church Parish and to its anonymous congregant who freely gave this gift to us.

There's No Harm in Asking....



We are looking for individuals to host some services and our monthly potluck dinners in their home during the months our new building will be under construction. If you are willing to host a dinner and service in your home, please contact Rabbi Mills. (cbjplymouthrabbi@gmail.com)



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



**It's a New Year!
Please Volunteer to Sponsor an Oneg in 2026!**

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)) 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 the following families who have volunteered to sponsor or host an Oneg this year:

1. March 6 - The family of Margot Alison Roache, in honor of her baby naming (Menucha Shoshana bat Malka Chanah)
2. April 17 - Allan & Judith Sherman, in honor of Allan's 88th birthday and their 62nd wedding anniversary.
3. May 8 - Norm & Lillian Vickery ((S'more Oneg on Lag B'omer))

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Welcome to Our Newest Members! Debra & Dr. Greg Bisacchi

Debra and Greg live on Seaview Drive in Plymouth. Deb is a reading specialist and holds Master degrees in English Language and Literacy, as well as in Social Work. Her interests include quilt making, reading, book groups, art, and weight lifting, and she would love to learn folk dancing. Deb would be interested in participating in the following groups and committees: Adult Education, Publications and documentation, publicity, and social programs. She is already a member of our Sisterhood. Greg is a scientist specializing in drug discovery. His interests include music, art history, and his passion is science (of course!)

We extend a warm welcome to Greg and Debra as they become members of our CBJ family!

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.](#)



The Congregation Extends Our Heartfelt Condolences to the Maddeford Family

Larry Maddeford's aunt, Brenda Berkeley, passed away on February 21st. The Congregation extends our heartfelt condolences to Larry, Ann, and the entire Maddeford family. Her memory will live forever in the hearts of all who knew and loved her,



To Ruth and Ken Perlow on their 63rd Wedding Anniversary!



It's March, Which Means....

It's Time to Think About Baseball (??)

Red Sox Jewish Heritage Night at Fenway

Wednesday, May 27th! (Red Sox v Atlanta Braves)

As this publication is being prepared, a massive Nor'Easter is heading toward New England, with ferocious winds and record snowfall - easily the biggest storm of the year or even in recent history. What better time to think about baseball? OK, it's true that the Red Sox may have had a couple of successive disappointing years, but for all you diehards, bloody optimists or masochists who will never give up hope, this is your chance to attend a game at Fenway Park in May when the Red Sox, once again, host Jewish Heritage Day. Reduced price tickets for grandstand seats will be available for purchase, together with an option to purchase a special Red Sox jersey with Hebrew letters spelling "Red Sox" for an additional \$5.00 (a real bargain!) If there is sufficient interest, we will hire a bus to take us from Plymouth to Fenway Park, as we have done in past years. Details and an ordering form will be available soon. [To see the brochure describing the Red Sox 2026 season, click HERE](#)





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

General Fund:

- Jack & Nora Luftman - in honor of Ronnie Hirschhorn's birthday
- Mr. Raymond J. Rogers and Ms. Lynne M. Neeley - in honor of Jack & Nora Luftman

Ray & Milly Russo Cultural Heritage & Arts Fund: Anne Geller

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:

Tamara Baker - in honor of the naming of her great granddaughter, Margot Alison Roache

Gift Cards Donations: 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 when you attend services in person.

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>) 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.**



Yahrzeits That Will be Observed This Month

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

March

- 1 Rebecca Miriam Dezorett
- 1 Lillie Pokross - Estelle Sherman's mother
- 1 Belle Sadow
- 2 Howard Weinberg - Dianne Bluestein's cousin
- 3 Sarah Rebecca Cohen
- 4 I. Harry Keller - Jackie Winokur and Joe Keller's father
- 4 Harriet Traugott - Robin Gersten's mother
- 5 Betty Balton - Vicki Fitzgerald's aunt
- 5 Samuel Goldberg - CBJ Founder
- 5 Pauline Hazan - Ray Russo's aunt
- 6 Joseph Bolotin
- 6 Rose Goldberg
- 6 Joseph L. Harris - Muriel Swartz's father
- 6 Morris Melniker - Ann Maddeford's father
- 6 Elizabeth Rains - Lois Klasky's grandmother
- 7 Rebecca Milner
- 8 Hyman Dreitzer
- 9 Molly Skulsky Balonis
- 9 Susan Starr- Marty Starr's first wife Marty Starr
- 10 William Jacob Berg
- 10 Sidney Egnatinsky - Gail Jacobson's father
- 10 Sarah Mollie Goldberg
- 10 Barbara Hirschhorn = Dan Hirschhorn's mother
- 10 Adele Hollander - Robin Goldstein's mother
- 10 Rose T. Romanow
- 11 Mendel Zavalcofsky - CBJ Founder
- 12 Adele Baler - Judge Gregory Baler's mother
- 12 Estelle Gladstein Ravage - Arnold Gladstein's sister
- 12 Ida Sandler - Myra Glansberg's aunt
- 13 Jerome Gottman - Rabbi Mills Father
- 15 Sayde Arons = Manny Arons' aunt
- 15 Albert Roth - Nancy Starr (Pecorella) family
- 16 John Padlusky - CBJ Founder and Rose Geller's uncle
- 16 Phillip Van West - Lois Klasky's father
- 16 Isadore H. Waterman - Past President
- 17 Henry Grace - David Grace's father
- 17 Charlotte Lippman - Carol Gilbert's mother
- 18 Lawrence Hollander - Robin Goldstein's uncle
- 18 Dean Chipper Meyers - Sherri Sore's cousin

- 19 Irving Miller
- 19 George Skulsky - Debbie Cohen's uncle
- 20 Janet Lee Kalaminsky - Sister of Laney Kalaminsky
- 20 Bernard Skulsky - Debbie Cohen's grandfather
- 21 Ida Herman - Miles Herman's grandmother
- 22 Jeffrey Hirschhorn - Dan Hirschhorn's father
- 23 Isaac Cohen - Debbie Cohen's grand uncle

23 Ida (Sherman) Padlusky - Rose Geller's aunt; (Note: She paid the 2nd mortgage for CBJ's synagogue in honor of her son returning safely after WWII)

- 26 Charles J. Katzew - Rabbi Jan Ketzew's father
- 27 Ida Kabelsky
- 28 Dan Hirschhorn - Ronnie Hirschhorn's husband and Jeremy Kusmin's father. The heart and soul of CBJ's Brotherhood.
- 28 Joseph George Resnick - Bernard Resnick family
- 31 Dora Sackheim
- 31 Shirley Segal - Nate Segal's paternal grandmother

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, March 10, 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? Please come to the meeting and share your ideas!

The Zoom link for Sisterhood Meetings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81885106141?pwd=dHd6LzZmSTRJZ2J6VmM2WIBZenpXZz09>
Meeting ID: 818 8510 6141 Passcode: 579857

Dues for 2026 Are Due!

To join Sisterhood or to renew your membership, see below.

(If you have already paid your dues, Thank You!)

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>

The Next Planned Sisterhood Program



**Movie at Plimoth Cinema with Early Dinner Afterwards at Aroma Restaurant
March 5th at 2:00 pm**

Please RSVP to Indicate Your Interest in Either/Both!

Please send an RSVP to Ronnie (aprocess@aol.com) and that you indicate your interest in attending: the movie/dinner OR BOTH.

We will not know until shortly beforehand exactly what the movie will be, but there are usually 2 excellent films that are playing. A separate announcement will be sent out to Sisterhood members with more details. Currently, we are trying to gauge the level of interest, and will need numbers to make a dinner reservation.



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. **You do not have to be a member of CBJ to join our Sisterhood (although we hope that you will!)**

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!

If you have already paid your 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.



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 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!

Recipe for Easy Hamantaschen



These hamantaschen are buttery, orange-scented filled cookies that are a favorite treat for the Purim holiday! It works out well to cover the dough and refrigerate it overnight.

Prep Time: 15 mins Cook Time: 15 mins Total Time: 30 mins. Servings: 24 Yield: 2 dozen cookies

Ingredients:

3 large eggs
1 cup granulated sugar
3/4 cup vegetable oil
1/2 cup orange juice
2-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
5-1/2 cups all-purpose flour, or as needed
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 cup fruit preserves, any flavor

Directions:

1. Gather the ingredients. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease cookie sheets.
2. Combine eggs and sugar in a large bowl; beat with an electric mixer until smooth and creamy. Stir in oil, orange juice, and vanilla. Combine flour and baking powder; stir into batter to form a stiff dough, adding more flour if needed.
3. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface and roll out into a 1/2-inch thickness. Cut into circles using a cookie cutter or the rim of a drinking glass; place 2 inches apart onto the prepared cookie sheets.
4. Spoon about 1 to 2 teaspoons of preserves into the center of each cookie. Pinch edges to form three corners.
5. Bake in the preheated oven until lightly browned, 12 to 15 minutes. Cool on the cookie sheets for 1 minute; transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

Nutrition Facts: Calories: 247

Total Fat 8g Saturated Fat 1g Cholesterol 23mg Sodium 75mg Total Carbohydrate 40g
Dietary Fiber 1g Total Sugars 15g Protein 4g Vitamin C 4mg Calcium 45mg Iron 2mg
Potassium 61mg