



THE TENT

Congregation Beth Jacob's Monthly Newsletter
May, 2026



CBJ Calendar of Upcoming Events:

May 1, 7:00 pm: Erev Shabbat Service (Zoom)

May 3, **12:30** pm: Unveiling of Lois Klasky's grave stone at the Vine Brook Cemetery in Plymouth.

May 8, Lag B'Omer Outdoor Service and picnic dinner around the campfire at the home of Dianne and David Bluestein. Bring your picnic supper at 6:00 pm, The Erev Shabbat service will begin at 7:00. Please send an RSVP if you plan to come. (rsvp@cbjplymouth.org) The address will be provided to everyone who sends an RSVP. The S'more Oneg is being provided by Norm and Lillian Vickery. (Hybrid) (In case of rain, this service will be by Zoom only. This will be true for all of our outdoor services.)

Monday, May 11, 3:00 pm: Social Justice in Our Texts Program - "The Right to Live, the Right to Die" by Rabbi Sylvia Rothschild - . By Zoom. Free for everyone but registration is required. See the article for details.

May 14, 7:00 pm: Sisterhood meeting (by Zoom)

May 15, 7:00 pm: Erev Shabbat Service with Rachmiel, with Confirmation of Jesse Bluestein and Betsy Engel, and Honoring Sarah Engel on her graduation, at Christ Church. The Oneg following the service is being provided by our confirmation parents, the Blusteins and the Engels.

May 17, 12:00:-5:00 pm - Israel in Depth: A Reform Day in Learning (See the article for details)

May 20, 8:00 pm: Free program offered by the Massachusetts Antisemitism Synagogue Task Force (MAST) - Jazz musician Joe Alterman discussing and playing Jewish Contributions to American Music. See the article to register and receive the Zoom link.

Thursday, May 21, 8:00 pm --Friday, May 22: 10:00 am: Tikkun Leil Shavuot Study Sessions. "It's Torah O'Clock Somewhere!" [Click here to register and to receive details about the classes being offered.](#)

Saturday, May 23 **10:15 am**: Shabbat Morning Service with Yizkor, Torah Study and bagel brunch at the Plymouth Public Library Board Room. Please rsvp if you plan to attend even if you are a "regular" who attends each week. . (rsvp@cbjplymouth.org) (in person only) Thank you to Sisterhood for sponsoring the bagel brunch.

Tuesday, May 26, 6:00 pm. Second meeting of the All Plymouth Social Justice Committee at the Plymouth Public Library Fehlow Room. Everyone is encouraged to attend and learn more about helping to strengthen Plymouth through community action.

May 27: Jewish Heritage Celebration at Fenway Park! See the article for details and link to sign up.

May 29, Erev Shavuot Shabbat Service and Confirmation of Jesse Bluestein and Betsy Engel, and honoring the graduation of Sarah Engel, preceded by Shavuot potluck dairy supper. Potluck supper at 6:00; Service at 7:00 pm [Click HERE to sign up!](#) The Oneg is being hosted by Ruth & Ken Perlow.

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



What is Counting the Omer About?

The Omer was an ancient Hebrew measure of grain. Biblical law (Leviticus 23:9-11) forbade any use of the new barley crop until an omer was brought as an offering to the Temple in Jerusalem. The Book of Leviticus (23:15-16) also commanded: "And from the day on which you bring the offering . . . you shall count off seven weeks. They must be complete." This commandment led to the traditional practice of S'firat HaOmer, or "Counting the Omer."

The seven weeks of counting the Omer spans the 49 days between the second day of Passover and the beginning of Shavuot (from April 13th through nightfall on June 1st this year.)

After the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 C.E., the Omer offering could no longer be observed. But the practice of counting the Omer continued and is still observed by many Jews.

What Is Lag B'Omer?

Lag BaOmer is a minor, festive holiday that falls on the 33rd day of the seven-week period between Passover and Shavuot, a period of time known as the Omer. (The numerical value of the Hebrew letter lamed is 30, and the value of gimel is three; lamed and gimel together are pronounced "lahg.") This year, it falls on May 5th. This holiday gives us a break from the semi-mourning restrictions (no parties or events with music, no weddings, no haircuts) that are customarily in place for some Jewish communities during the Omer.

The Omer has both agricultural and spiritual significance: it marks both the spring cycle of planting and harvest, and the Israelites' journey out of slavery in Egypt (Passover) and toward receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai (Shavuot). An omer ("sheaf") is an ancient Hebrew measure of grain. Biblical law forbade any use of the new barley crop until after an omer was brought as an offering to the Temple in Jerusalem. The Book of Leviticus (23:15-16) also commanded: "And from the day on which you bring the offering...you shall count off seven weeks. They must be complete." This commandment led to the practice of the S'firat HaOmer, or the 49 days of the "Counting of the Omer," which begins on the second day of Passover and ends with the celebration of Shavuot on the 50th day. Lag BaOmer commemorates a variety of historical events, including the end of a plague that killed many students of Rabbi Akiva (c. 50-135 C.E.), the yahrzeit of 2nd-century mystical scholar Shimon bar Yochai, and a Jewish military victory over Roman forces in 66 C.E. In remembrance of these events, some people celebrate with picnics and bonfires. Many couples in Israel choose to get married on Lag BaOmer, and many people also choose to wait until that day to get a haircut or beard trim.

Congregation Beth Jacob

LAG B'OMER
CELEBRATION
AND PICNIC

FRIDAY MAY 8, 2026 @ 6:00 PM
FOLLOWED BY LAG B'OMER SERVICES

BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC DINNER
SERVICE AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

Service at the Bluestein home

RSVP
by
May 5

rsvp@cbjplymouth.org

RSVP to rsvp@cbjplymouth.org by May 5th. Please include your name(s) and the number of people coming with you. **PLEASE NOTE: If it rains, the service will be conducted on Zoom only. This will be true for all of our outdoor services this year.**

The Dianne and David Bluestein's address and directions to their house will be provided to everyone who sends an RSVP.

ISRAEL IN DEPTH:

A Reform Day of Learning

Hear from American-
Israeli Educator, Author,
Activist and USA Today's
Woman of the Year:

Rachel Goldberg-Polin

May 17, 2026

12:00-5:00 PM ET



Photo by Chen G. Schimmel




Join ARZA (Association of Reform Jewish Zionists) for a Reform Day of Learning -- a North America-wide virtual training designed for this moment. Hear from leading experts, tackle big questions, and connect with peers navigating the complexities of a post-October 7 Jewish world.

This half-day experience will explore Israel education, Israeli-Palestinian relationships, advocacy, partnerships, and Jewish peoplehood — plus a special conversation with Rachel Goldberg-Polin on her powerful new book *When We See You Again*.

A meaningful opportunity to gain clarity, tools, and community. Sign up here:
<https://events.urj.org/5oQqLN>

In honor of Jewish American Heritage Month
MAST Presents: Joe Alterman discussing and playing Jewish Contributions to American Music

WED, MAY 20 ZOOM 8 PM EST



A fun and fascinating concert that explores the profound Jewish contributions to music. This isn't just a history lesson—it's an exploration and celebration of the creativity, resilience, and cultural impact Jewish artists, songwriters, and entrepreneurs have had shaping the soundtracks of our lives. A must-see for music lovers, history buffs, and anyone curious about the deep connections between culture and music!



Joe Alterman,
acclaimed jazz
musician

**Please Press Here
to Register**

Community Partners

Am HaYam Cape Cod Havurah

Ahavat Torah Congregation-Stoughton

CAEF-Canadian Antisemitism Education Foundation

Herut North America

ICSA-The Institute for the Critical Study of Antizionism

KTM-Kadimah-Toras Moshe Synagogue-Brighton

Mattathias Project

RICI-Rhode Island Coalition for Israel

StandWithUs -New England

Temple Beth Israel-Waltham

Temple Emanuel-Newton

Temple Emeth-Chestnut Hill

Temple Emunah-Lexington

Massachusetts Antisemitism Synagogue Task Force -mast1776@icloud.com

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)



Congregation Beth Jacob celebrates

The Confirmation of

JESSIE BLUESTEIN



Daughter of
Dianne & David
Bluestein

BETSY ENGEL



Daughter of
Kate and Brad
Engel

FRIDAY, MAY 15TH AT 7 PM
at Christ Church

*Confirmation is a 19th Century Reform
Movement Ceremony for teens held on or
around Shavout to celebrate their affirmation
of Jewish commitment, values, and identify
usually occurring in 10th grade.*

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The High School Graduation Of

SARAH ENGEL



Daughter of
Kate and Brad
Engel
Sarah will be
continuing her
education at
University of
Vermont

Please join us as we celebrate the Confirmation of Jesse Bluestein and Betsy Engel, and honor Sarah Engel on her graduation and express our appreciation for her dedicated service to CBJ!

Join Us for Our Erev Shabbat Shavuot Service with Shavuot Potluck Supper on May 29th (Dairy - No Meat!)

SIGN UP NOW FOR THE POTLUCK SUPPER! [CLICK HERE!](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F49ADAD28AAF49-63809638-cbjshavout)

Or use the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F49ADAD28AAF49-63809638-cbjshavout>

JOIN CBJ ON FRIDAY, MAY 29 AT 6:00 PM

**FOR A DAIRY DINNER & SHAVUOT SERVICES
FOLLOWED BY AN ICE CREAM ONEG**



The Holiday of Shavuot celebrates the giving of the 10 Commandments at Mt. Sinai, and is a time we traditionally enjoy dairy foods (ice cream included!).

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Yizkor
Friday, May 22rd, at Sundown
Honor their memory



We traditionally honor the memory of our loved ones each year on their Yahrzeit and on the four holidays during which the Yizkor prayer is recited: Passover, Shavuot, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot.

This year, Yizkor will be observed as part of our Saturday morning Shabbat service on May 23rd. If you are observing Yizkor at home, a candle should be lit at sundown on Friday, May 22nd.

[Click here for a link to the transliteration of the Yizkor prayer.](#)



REFLECTIONS FROM THE RABBI

This month we will be celebrating the Confirmation of Jessie Bluestein and Betsy Engel. Since the roots of this congregation, and for some of you, your own roots, were in the Conservative movement, you may not be familiar with this ceremony. In fact, unlike Bar Mitzvah which can be traced back to the 13th or 14th century, the idea of confirmation is a relatively recent one that originates in Reform Judaism.

The first Confirmation ceremony occurred in 1810 in Germany, almost simultaneously with the beginning of the Reform Movement, and was originally intended to broaden the scope of the traditional Bar Mitzvah. Reformjudaism.org credits “its conception to Israel Jacobson, a wealthy businessman considered to be the founder of the Reform movement. In addition to confirmation, he introduced a number of, then radical reforms, including the use of an organ and mixed male-female seating. Jacobson felt that bar and bat mitzvahs were an antiquated ceremony, with thirteen being too young an age for a person to truly come of age, and that there should be a similar tradition to honor the culmination of a Jewish youth’s [formal] Torah learning.”

At first, only boys were confirmed, usually on the anniversary Shabbat of their bar mitzvah. The earliest rituals were held exclusively in homes or in schools, and not synagogues and were more like graduations. Then in 1817, the synagogue in Berlin introduced a separate confirmation program for girls within the congregation. Five years later, in 1822, the first class of boys and girls was confirmed, reflecting the major Reform Jewish principle of gender equality, thereby providing the first and for that time very radical opportunity for an inclusive, egalitarian religious celebration in Judaism. In 1831, confirmation became linked to the holiday of Shavuot which

celebrates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, and that connection is the widely accepted practice today.

Confirmation emphasizes the spiritual and moral values of Judaism, and the development of a teen's Jewish identity, very different from the concentration on Hebrew reading that is the center of a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. The first recorded confirmation in North America was held at New York's Anshe Chesed Congregation in 1846. Two years later, New York's Congregation Emanuel-EI adopted confirmation. The ceremony grew in popularity, and in 1927, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the professional organization of North America's Reform rabbis, recommended confirmation as a movement-wide practice. By the mid-19th century, confirmation had grown to become one of the major highlights of the year in Reform temples. It marked a young person's graduation from Hebrew school and acknowledged that sixteen to eighteen years old is a better age for a young person to make the emotional and intellectual commitment to Judaism that Confirmation implies.

The ceremony not only grew in importance, it also became more elaborate. In the early 1900s, confirmation took on an air of great pageantry, with both young men and young women wearing robes, bringing flower offerings to the *bimah*, and participating in dramatic readings on the themes of dedication and commitment to Judaism. Preparation for confirmation had originally included public tests and confessions of faith, but in more recent times it acknowledges post B'nai Mitzvah study and the center of the ceremony is the giving of speeches which reflect a deeper understanding of Jewish teachings and values. While tenth grade confirmation remains the norm in Reform Judaism, a number of synagogues now mark the event in ninth, eleventh, or even twelfth grade.

Join us on May 15th to celebrate this special event with Jessie and Betsy and their families!!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Welcome to Our Newest Members!

**Alexandra Geller & Bill Muller
Easthampton, MA**

Alexandra is the daughter of Anne Geller, who is a long-time member of our CBJ congregation. Alexandra and Bill were married by Rabbi Emeritus Lawrence Silverman and have joined CBJ as associate members. We warmly welcome Alexandra and Bill to 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.](#)

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

tzedek
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>



The LGBTQ+ Equality of Jewish Life



The Right to Live. The Right to Die.

Jewish Sources on End-of Life Ethics

Monday, May 11

3pm Eastern on Zoom

With Rabbi Sylvia Rothschild



Part of the “Social Justice in Our Texts” Series



And Save the Date for the Final Program of the Year!



Protecting LGBTQ+ Rights: A Jewish View
Monday, June 8 at 3pm ET
With Rabbi Micah Buck

The Jewish tradition offers us powerful language for affirming, protecting, and advocating for trans and queer civil rights - and it is more important than ever to have the tools to bring a faith voice for equality to the table. We will learn about the current landscape facing the LGBTQ+ community, understand what the Jewish tradition has to teach about defending LGBTQ+ rights, and identify concrete action steps for this moment.

Part of the “Social Justice in Our Texts” Study Series.
Free and open to all. Register at laasok.org/current-offerings/#justice



**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



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>



Announcing the Second Meeting of All Plymouth Social Justice Committee

At the end of March, over 50 people representing 7 different faith communities in Plymouth and Kingston, as well as representatives from Plymouth for All and Together We Can, met at the Plymouth Public library to brainstorm ideas for working together to help the immigrant community and all those in need in greater Plymouth. We also came together to learn about what each group was already doing. It was a wonderful meeting.

A second follow up meeting to form more concrete plans for joint community action has been scheduled at the Plymouth Public Library Fehlow room on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 beginning at 6 pm. Everyone is encouraged to attend and learn more about helping strengthen Plymouth through community action. To read the Minutes from this meeting, [CLICK HERE](#).

IT'S TORAH O'CLOCK SOMEWHERE
Thursday, May 21 - Friday, May 22
8:00 pm ET - 10:00 am ET

TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT 5786

Join with rabbis and cantors from small congregations for a full night of learning, connection, and inspiration. You'll be able to choose from 26 unique sessions exploring themes of Shavuot, biblical texts, Israel, and liturgy. Once you register, you'll receive a link to the event site, where the full schedule of breakout sessions will be shared as we get closer. We hope you'll join us for what promises to be a meaningful and energizing experience. Register for the event today! <https://urj.tfaforms.net/901?id=701UG00000fOH6Z>

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. For information about registration for the 2026-2027 school year, please contact Devon Fernald at Devon.Portney.Fernald@sunlife.com

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

Final Meeting Date This Year: May 17



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 year, the program has met monthly on Sundays from 12:30 to 2:30 usually in a location in Sandwich which is equal distance for all 3 congregations. We discussed 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 was a trip to follow in the footsteps of the Jews who impacted the Civil Rights Movement by visiting key places in the deep south. This program also facilitated going as a group to NFTY-NE (National Federation of Temple Youth-North East) social events in the Boston area.

**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**

NEW LINK BELOW!

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/82165076579?pwd=OEBcT7R8YQQDWGPPbn98karyLBqs9w.1>



**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.



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.

We are close to closing on the sale of 8 Pleasant Street, but some Title issues relating to the property Rights of Way needed to be addressed, which has caused a delay. Our attorney and our co-Presidents, Devon and Dianne, are working with Town officials to resolve these issues so that we can close on the sale.

With regard to our purchase of the 279 Summer Street property, we have received zoning approval and are working with exterior and interior contractors. We are working toward filing permit applications so that we can close on the purchase. This has been a longer process than we had anticipated (isn't that true for almost everything?) but we are making progress. In the chronology of events, we are trying to close on the sale of our synagogue building first so that those funds can be used to complete the purchase of Summer Street. Please look out for a separate (and ecstatic) email from the Co-Presidents letting you know when these transactions have been completed. Thank you for your support and patience!

In the coming months, the land at our 279 Summer Street site will then 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 might look.



New Building Gala Fundraising Kickoff Event - May 2nd!

Our fundraising kickoff event has been scheduled for May 2nd, when we'll share full updates and begin officially meeting with congregants and other donors. This is intended to be an informational meeting only, and donations to the Building Fund will not be solicited at this time.

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



**Please Volunteer to Sponsor an Oneg in 2026!
Oneg Sponsors/Hosts Are Needed for July 24th (Tisha B'Av), July
31st (Tu B'Av - Israeli Valentine's Day); and August 7th.**

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 month:

1. May 8 - Norm & Lillian Vickery ((S'more Oneg on Lag B'omer)
2. May 15 - our Confirmation parents, the Bluestein's and the Engels
3. May 29 - Ruth & Ken Perlow



**2026 Jewish Heritage Celebration Night at Fenway
Wednesday, May 27th! (Red Sox v Atlanta Braves)
SIGN UP NOW BEFORE THE MAY 20th DEADLINE!**

Join us along with all of the other Boston area congregations at Fenway Park for Jewish Heritage Celebration Night at Fenway Park! While there are no guarantees that the Sox will win, hope springs eternal in the human breast of Red Sox fans everywhere!!

As an additional bonus, ticket holders who purchase through this special offer will receive a Red Sox Jewish Heritage Jersey with RED SOX written in Hebrew! (see the photo below..) Jerseys will be available in sizes Adult S-XL, with sizes distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. This jersey is a beauty - well worth the price of the ticket all by itself.



TICKET PRICES: Special group pricing is available only until May 20th and we will need 15 participants in order to qualify for the reduced rate. Depending on the number of people who respond, we will either hire a bus, as we did last year, or provide the option of carpooling to all who are interested. The price per ticket will be \$43 (ticket cost of \$38 + \$5 handling fee) for grandstand seats.

TRANSPORTATION: Sign up to take the bus to Fenway Park. It's cheaper than driving and paying to park at Fenway Park. We will have two stops:

1st pickup at 4:45pm: Park n Ride at exit 13

2nd pickup at 5:15pm: Route 228 Park n Ride at exit 35

Cost: \$25pp (Kids under 13 are free)

[Click HERE for details and registration form..](#)



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

A Special Thank You to Joe and Amanda Dery and their Family
for their donation of a portable microphone system to CBJ!

Yahrzeit/General Fund:

Deb & Dave Dauer - in memory of Jack Luftman's mother, Ruth Luftman
Judith & Allan Sherman - in memory of Jack Luftman's mother, Ruth Luftman

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:

Al Baum, in appreciation

Building Fund:

Rhonda Spigel - in honor of Judith & Allan Sherman
Judith & Allan Sherman - in appreciation to Mark Streifer
Peter Brown

Gift Card Program:

Jeffrey Isaacson

Rachmiel Klein's Cantorial Services:

Allan & Judith Sherman



Funding for Rachmiel Klein's Monthly Cantorial Performances

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

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



Yahrzeits That Will be Observed This Month

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

May

1	Miles Herman	former President
1	William Lippman	Carol Gilbert's father
3	Avi Teles Hunemorder	Seth Teles' sister
4	Frank L. Simons	Lanie Katzew's father
5	Stella S. Bromberg	Milly Russo's mother
5	Arnold B. Shelly	Jeff Shelly's father
5	Louis Waterman	Earl Waterman's father
7	Harvey F. Cohen	Debbie Cohen's uncle
8	Sheila Finer	Past President, Carl Finer's wife
8	Silvia Siegel	Rabbi Mills' Aunt
11	Kalman Aharoni	Barbara Aharoni's father
12	Joseph Epstein	Suzanne Goldberg's father
12	Walter Segal	Nate Segal's paternal grandfather
13	Abraham Goldberg	Past President
13	Rita B. Grace	David Grace's mother
13	Ida Portnoy	
14	David Rodman	Former Board member
15	Lucille Arons	Paula Keller & Cindy Teles' mother
15	Annie F. Goldman	Ethel Shiff's mother
16	Jacob Erie	Laney Kalaminsky's grandfather
17	Eleanor Fuller	Chris Pereira's mother
17	William Mazer	Nate Segal's maternal grandfather
19	Rebecca Frim	
19	Lawrence Geller	Anne Geller's husband
19	Ada Greenberg	Alyce Gladstein's mother
19	Ralph Holler	Roberta Holler's husband
19	Sidney Jacobs	Deb Dauer's father
19	Bessie A. Resnick	Plimoth Plantation's Jewish Pilgrim
20	Rae Baron	Joel Baron's mother
20	Rose Sherman Geller	Allan Sherman's aunt
22	Minnie E. Kaplan	Fay Meltzer's mother
25	Solomon Bromberg	Milly Russo's father

25	Ralph Jacob Resnick	
28	Amy B. Katzew	Jan Ketzew's mother
28	Marc Lipetz	Irene Sarke's brother
29	Benjamin Bailey	Michael Weiner's grandfather
29	Esther Isaacson	Jeffrey Isaacson's mother
29	Jean T. Romanow	Eddie Romanow's wife
30	Walter Kilimnik	Robin Hunter's father

May their memory forever abide as a blessing.

Yahrzeit Donations

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



Food Bank Donations to Families in Need

The need for food assistance is greater than ever in the Plymouth area, The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has had no government funding since November of 2024, affecting 41.7 million Americans who depend on SNAP to feed their children and themselves, including our seniors.

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), (<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.**



**The Next Sisterhood Meeting
Monday, May 11, 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=dHd6LzMzSTRJZ2J6VmM2WIBZenpXZz09>

Meeting ID: 818 8510 6141 Passcode: 579857

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 Sisterhood Program
Is Being Planned for June 2nd!**

This will be another memorable learning adventure that you won't want to miss! If you attended the Sisterhood meeting on April 13th, you already know all about it. Everybody else will have to wait. Watch for details in the Weekly Update and in your email inbox.



Sisterhood Application Form

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!

For Shavuot (or any time)
The Only Lasagna Recipe You Will Ever Need!



Ingredients

1 onion, diced
2 tbsp. oil
salt
2 cloves garlic, crushed
3 carrots, peeled and grated
3 stalks of celery, peeled and very finely sliced
8 oz. fresh spinach
4 cups marinara sauce
1 lb. ricotta cheese
8 oz. muenster cheese, shredded
8 oz. mozzarella cheese, shredded
12 lasagna noodles (not the oven-ready ones)

Directions

Soak lasagna noodles in warm water.

Meanwhile, saute the onion in the oil until translucent. Add the carrots and celery and cook down until wilted. Add the garlic and the fresh spinach. Cook until the spinach has wilted. Season with salt as you go along, adding a sprinkle with each add-in. Mix the sauteed vegetables with the ricotta cheese. Set aside.

Layer 1: Spread 1 cup marinara sauce across the bottom of the pan. Place three noodles on top. Spread half the ricotta mixture on top of the noodles and sprinkle half the muenster cheese on top.

Layer 2: Place 3 lasagna noodles on top of the ricotta. Top with 1 ½ cups marinara and half the mozzarella cheese.

Layer 3: Layer three lasagna noodles on top of the marinara. Cover with the remaining half of the ricotta mixture and the remaining half of the muenster cheese.

Layer 4: Last three noodles. Cover with 1 ½ cups marinara and remaining mozzarella.

Pour 1 cup of water around the edges of the lasagna. Cover tightly with foil and bake approximately 1 hour at 350F. Uncover and bake for another 15 minutes. Remove from the oven and let rest for 15-20 minutes before cutting.

Yields: 1 lasagna, approximately 12 pieces