



THE TENT

Congregation Beth Jacob's Monthly Newsletter
September, 2026



CBJ Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 4, Outdoor Elul Service at the home of Rabbi Jan Katzew and Cantor Lanie Katzew
Please send an email message to president@cbjplymouth.org to request the address and driving instructions.

5:00 pm: Bring your own picnic supper and a lawn chair

6:00 pm: Service begins

The Oneg is being sponsored by Rabbi Sandra and Arnold Bellush in honor of Rabbi Jan and Cantor Lanie Katzew.

Saturday, September 5, 7:00 pm: Selichot Service and Study on Forgiveness at Christ Church, led by Rabbi Jan Katzew. (hybrid) Light refreshments (honey cake, etc.) will be provided by Sisterhood. Since the topic of forgiveness is universal, we have invited the congregants of Christ Church to join us for this Selichot service. Please RSVP to rsvp@cbjplymouth.org if you are planning to attend.

September 8, 4:30-6:00 pm: Get Out the Vote Postcard Opportunity at The Beal House, 222 Main Street, Kingston.

September 11, 7:00 pm: Erev Rosh Hashanah Service at The Spire Center for Performing Arts (25 1/2 Court St, Plymouth) (hybrid) Thank you to Sisterhood for providing the Challah following the service.

Saturday, September 12, 10:00 am: Rosh Hashanah Morning Service at The Spire (hybrid)

Sunday, September 13: Second Day Rosh Hashanah Family Services at Wind-in-the-Pines Girl Scout Camp, 180 West Long Pond Road, Plymouth (hybrid)

10:00 am: Service 12:00 pm: Tashlich and Cookout - [SIGN UP HERE FOR THE COOKOUT!](#)

Saturday, September 19, 10:15 am: Shabbat Shuva Morning Service and Torah Study with Bagel Brunch in the Board Room at the Plymouth Public Library. Thank you to Sisterhood for providing the bagel brunch. Please RSVP, even if you are a regular. rsvp@cbjplymouth.org

Sunday, September 20, 10:00 am: Cemetery Service at the Beth Jacob Cemetery

Sunday, September 20, 7:00 pm: Kol Nidre (Yom Kippur Eve) at The Spire (hybrid)

Monday, September 21: - Yom Kippur Services at The Spire (hybrid)

10:00 am - Yom Kippur Morning Service

3:00 pm: - Yom Kippur /Afternoon Service

4:30 pm - Yizkor and Closing Service

Friday, September 25: Shabbat Sukkot Service at Bay End Farm, 200 Bourndale Road, Bourne (hybrid)

5:15 pm: Bring your own picnic dinner and a lawn chair

6:00 pm: Sukkot Service The Oneg is being hosted by the Beit Sefer families

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



CONGREGATION
BETH JACOB
L'Dor v'Dor

BE A PART OF *Our Future* ♥



WE NEED **100%**
PARTICIPATION

So far, 29% of our congregation
has pledged or donated to our
capital campaign.



To the families who have not yet had the chance
to make their pledge or gift –

we will be reaching out personally.

Our volunteers and leaders will be in touch
because we value every voice, every commitment,
and every act of generosity in building
our shared future.



Have a question? Want to talk or make your pledge?

We're here for you.

Please reach out to us at
president@cbjplymouth.org



WE NEED **YOU ALL** TO MAKE
OUR NEW HOME A REALITY.



Every commitment, no matter the size,
brings us closer to a vibrant future –

together, l'dor v'dor.

THANK YOU

FOR BEING PART OF
OUR CBJ FAMILY.



We Need *YOU!*

OUR NEW HOME
needs
ALL OF US.

TO HELP BUILD OUR FUTURE!

As we move forward with our Capital Campaign and plans for our new CBJ home, we're looking for members of our community who have skills, experience, ideas — or simply a willingness to help.



We're *especially* interested in folks with *expertise* in:



COMMUNICATIONS
& MARKETING



FUNDRAISING
& DEVELOPMENT



CONSTRUCTION
& BUILDING



PROJECT
MANAGEMENT



COMMUNITY
OUTREACH



EVENT
PLANNING



AND ANYTHING
ELSE YOU THINK
COULD HELP!



You don't have to be an expert.

Maybe you have a great idea. Maybe you have experience we don't know about. Maybe you'd just like to be part of making this exciting vision a reality.

**WE NEED YOU — AND WE WELCOME
YOUR IDEAS AND INPUT!**



Together,
WE CAN MAKE
OUR NEW HOME
A REALITY.



Please reach out to
robingersten@aol.com
for more information,
or simply to say hello and
have a conversation about how
you might be able to help.



L'Dor V'Dor — from generation to generation.

What is Selichot? by Barry Shrage Union for Reform Judaism



For many Jews, the High Holiday season begins with Rosh HaShanah and the start of the new month of Tishrei. Jewish tradition, however, teaches that the preceding month of Elul is a time of soul-searching and reflection to prepare oneself for the magnitude of the Days of Awe. It is during this time that we observe Selichot (also spelled s'lichot).

In the broadest definition, selichot are penitential prayers said before and during the High Holidays and other fast days throughout the year. But the term first appears as a reference to the biblical verses that were added to the Yom Kippur liturgy.

In Hebrew, selichot translates to “forgiveness,” and indeed there is an emphasis in these prayers on the merciful attributes with which God is said to govern the world.

In many ways, the prayers which make up the Selichot service mirror what we find on the Day of Atonement which follows soon after. The language of these qualities should sound familiar to anyone who has recited the liturgy throughout Yom Kippur when we speak about God’s ability to forgive “transgression, iniquity, and sin.”

We begin and end the season of repentance with the same words, calling out to the compassionate God who we hope will accept our prayers. The holiday itself occurs early in the month of Elul in Sephardic tradition, but on the Saturday evening just before Rosh HaShanah in Ashkenazi communities. Either way, prayers are read and meditations considered as individuals are encouraged to reflect on the past year and the changes they wish to make in the upcoming one.

Reform congregations have developed beautiful and meaningful programs for the observance of Selichot on the Saturday evening prior to Rosh HaShanah. This often includes a study program about the themes of repentance and forgiveness.

In addition to the Selichot service, a meaningful ritual of changing the Torah covers to those specifically designed for the High Holidays often precedes the service. The special covers are usually white, representing purity and the wish that through repentance, our sins will be made white as snow (Isaiah 1:18).

WHAT DO THE SHOFAR SOUNDS MEAN?



There are essentially four traditional shofar sounds:

Tekiah – One long blast

Shevraim – Three medium length blasts

Teruah – Nine short staccato sounds

Tekiah Gedolah – One extra long blast

There is not a single meaning to each of the shofar sounds. Over time, many meanings have been attributed to each type of shofar sound; however, there is essentially a consistent theme running through the various interpretations given for each particular shofar sound.

First Shofar sound - The Tekiah (one long blast)

The laws of Jewish halacha regarding the sounding of the shofar demand that all of the shofar notes sounded shall have a Tekiah to precede and succeed them. The Tekiah, with its long straight sound, is the bookends of all life. It comes first and it goes last. Tekiah indicates stability in life. It also indicates discipline and consistency. Stability, peace, discipline and consistency are values which help us raise children who grow up to be confident and fully aware of their self-worth. Tekiah is also considered to be the sound of the coronation of the King. Every year, during Rosh HaShannah, The new Jewish Year, G-d is crowned King of the universe. Crowning Him King acknowledges that His commandments are for the good of mankind and that His concern is that people live in peace and harmony. Tekiah accepts His reign in our lives.

However, Tekiah can be a symbol of complacency with the status quo, a complacency which will soon be stirred to action through courage which the Tekiah commands. We have lived a stable life, going about our mundane routine, day in and day out throughout the year. This routine made us indifferent to certain mistunes or defects present on our path. It made us feel safe and sound in that which is familiar. Tekiah is the sound which is to awaken us from a spiritual slumber and prepare us to what is coming next:

Second Shofar sound - The Shevarim (Three medium length blasts)

The Shevarim represents the times of trouble, the wails that emanate from the human heart when failure, tragedy and seemingly insurmountable problems befall us. No one can pass through this life without Shevarim. It is the call to look beyond ourselves, realize and empathize with the pain existing in this world. It is an awakening towards self evaluation,

introspection and the heartbroken feeling that follows, when we understand that we have once again failed living to our full potential. It is the cry to reconnect, grow and achieve. Shevarim sound is also the sound of mourning for the Holy Temple which once stood in Jerusalem. The Jewish people have shed an ocean of tears over history due to the terrible ordeals they had to go through, but those tears have become the strong foundation of a national existence. Shever means fracture, something that is cracked and broken. It is in the darkness of the Shevarim, that we can find the glimpse of hope and see the light that diffuses in. We come to full understanding of that which calls for a change. Each of us can build upon those very sounds of wailing to construct a better future for all of us.

Third Shofar sound - The Teruah (Nine short staccato sounds)

The Teruah is a call for accomplishment. It signals that passivity is unacceptable if our potential is to be realized. We need to be honest about the objective of our lives: Who we are, where we've been and the direction towards where we are headed. Teruah resembles a giant alarm clock, reminding us to complete the mission. It brings clarity, alertness and focus. The short staccato sounds remind us that progress is often measured in small steps, one foot after the other. Redemption and self-improvement are processes rather than miraculous and sudden epiphanies. We sound the shevarim and teruah consecutively during shofar service to indicate that after troubles and even tragedy, resilience and positive action is required. Thus the sounds of the shofar come to point our way towards a disciplined and active year that will be filled only with wails of joy and happiness.

Fourth Shofar Sound – Tekiah Gedolah (One extra long blast)

Finally, we gather all our resolutions and go back to the start. We have to right all wrongs. This is the purpose of the Tekiah Gedolah. Its long stable continuous sound helps us go back to square one with a feeling of awe. We witness the birth of a new and better self surrounded by the unwavering love of G-d which is always present but hardly ever noticed. The Long Tekiah opens our ears to hear it and feel it. It helps us regain stability and discipline so that we would be able to realize our new commitment to G-d and to our newborn self.

Get Ready For The High Holy Days!



CONGREGATION BETH JACOB

Leil Selichot / סליחות

SERVICE AND STUDY

Saturday, September 5, 2026 7 pm at Christ Church

Led by Rabbi Jan Katzew

RSVP REQUIRED BY
SEPTEMBER 1, 2026
RSVP@CBJPLYMOUTH.ORG

"To Err is Human, to Forgive Divine"
(Alexander Pope)

"Pardon, I pray, the iniquity of this
people according to your great
kindness, as You have forgiven this
people since Egypt. And God said, I
pardon, as you have asked."
(Numbers 14:20)

Before September 5:
Forgive one person and ask for
forgiveness from one person.

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Rabbi Katzew, PhD served as the Director of Lifelong Jewish Learning at the Union for Reform Judaism and as an Associate Professor of Education and Jewish Thought at Hebrew Union College. He is a teacher and leader in Reform Jewish education and a mentor to countless Jewish professionals. Since its inception in 2008, Jan has been a senior consultant to the iCenter for Israel Education. Jan is the author of popular and scholarly articles in multiple fields that include Interfaith dialogue, Mussar, Medieval Hebrew Poetry, Israel Education, Moral Development, and educational philosophy and practice. This past year The Association of Reform Jewish Educators announced the creation of the Rabbi Jan D. Katzew Mentorship Program, celebrating an educator whose vision, wisdom, and generosity have shaped generations of Reform Jewish educators.

Do not miss the opportunity to learn from one of Reform Judaism's greatest teachers!

SOME OF THE QUESTIONS WE WILL BE STUDYING:

1. Why is forgiveness a divine quality that humans can imitate?
2. How can forgiving others and ourselves for errors prepare us for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur?
3. Forgiving is different from forgetting. Comment.
4. Before September 5, 2026 Forgive one person and ask for forgiveness from one person.

SELICHOT
@ Christ
Church

7:00 PM

5 SEP

**EREV ROSH
HASHANA**
@ Spire

7:00 PM

11 SEP

**ADULT &
YOUTH ROSH
HASHANA**
@ Spire

10:00 AM

12 SEP

**2ND DAY ROSH
HASHANA**
@ Wind in the
Pines Camp

10:00 AM

13 SEP

**TASHLICH &
COOKOUT**
@Wind in the
Pines Camp

12:00 PM

13 SEP

Congregation Beth Jacob
HIGH HOLY DAY

SCHEDULE

**Please note location
of each event!**

**20
26**



**SHABBAT
SHUVA
SERVICE &
TORAH STUDY**
@ Main Library

10:00 AM

19 SEP

**MEMORIAL
SERVICE**
@ Vine Hills
Cemetery

10:00 AM

20 SEP

**KOL
NIDRE**
@ Spire

7:00 PM

20 SEP

**YOM
KIPPUR
ADULT &
YOUTH**
@ Spire

10:00 AM

21 SEP

**AFTERNOON
SERVICE**
@ Spire

3:00 PM

21 SEP

**YIZKOR AND
NE'LAH**
@ Spire

4:30 PM

21 SEP

**SUKKOT
DINNER &
SERVICE**
@ Farm

5:00 PM

25 SEP

**SIMCHAT
TORAH DINNR
& SERVICE**
@ Christ Church

**6:00 dinner
7:00 service**

2 OCT

Congregation Beth Jacob invites you to

2ND DAY ROSH HASHANAH



FAMILY SERVICES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

At Wind In the Pines Girls Scout Camp

190 West Long Pond Road (near the Pinehills)

10 AM
SERVICE

in the Education Center.



12 PM
TASHLICH

At their lake

FOLLOWED BY A COMMUNITY COOKOUT

Join us for this relaxed, intimate, family friendly
service in a beautiful setting!.



SAVE THE
DATE!



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[SIGN UP HERE FOR THE COOKOUT POTLUCK FOLLOWING THIS SERVICE!](#)



REFLECTIONS FROM THE RABBI

This year, Erev Rosh Hashanah falls on the twenty-fifth anniversary of September 11th, a date in which, as we know, four airplanes including one leaving from Boston Logan were hijacked and ultimately led to the collapse of the Twin Towers, an attack on the Pentagon, and a fourth plane that the passengers prevented the loss of lives beyond their own by rushing the cockpit and causing it to crash into a field in Pennsylvania. It is a moment that many of us can remember exactly where we were when we heard the news, and can recall as if it was just yesterday the vivid images that flashed across our television screens as we watched the unfolding of the worst terrorist attack on American soil. Our world is not the same as it was twenty-five years ago in many ways and yet other aspects of the world remain eerily and unfortunately the same. Terrorist activity and antisemitism continues to threaten our safety and well-being. National borders have been redrawn in several parts of the world, while new leaders, but not necessarily better leaders, have come and gone from power. The international landscape continues to change, too often accompanied by bloodshed and the loss of innocent lives. But yet, despite all the conflicts and needless hatred, we continue to hope, pray, and work for peace and a better world.

As we commemorate the twenty fifth anniversary of September 11th, I want to share with you slightly edited words written on the tenth anniversary of 9/11 by Rabbi Ethan Prosnit, then a young student intern at the Religious Action center of Reform Judaism:

On this anniversary of 9/11, may the blast of the shofar serve as a sharp reminder of each of the 2,973 lives that were taken that day. May the shofar's sound echo like the sirens of the firefighters, police officers and first responders whose actions and sacrifice on 9/11 were extraordinary. May the shofar's blast help us appreciate the fragility of life.

On this anniversary of 9/11, may the blast of the shofar serve as an alarm to us. May its sound remind us of our missteps this past year -- our biases, our prejudices, our own actions that may have made this world a less peaceful and tolerant place. May the shofar call us to heed our best instincts and act with compassion and love.

On this anniversary of 9/11, may the blast of the shofar serve as a sound of comfort to all. To those wounded who continue to recover; to those who lost loved ones and friends; and to all whose hearts were broken by witnessing the pain of others.

May the sound of the shofar on Rosh Hashanah help us reflect on how our world has changed and how it has remained the same. And let each of us individually and communally recommit ourselves to again make our world whole.

As this year draws to a close we reflect upon the year that was and the year that will be - where we have been and where we hope to be when the Days of Awe arrive.

During the remaining days of Elul, we pray that we may begin to repair the things we may have broken during the past year. And we pray that through these acts of Teshuvah, our world will become a more tolerant, just, and peaceful place. May this be God's will.



**Hadassah Plymouth will be screening the film
Labors of Love
on Thursday, September 17th, 10am-12:15pm
at Pinehills Cabana**

This captivating film unveils the remarkable and often overlooked story of Henrietta Szold, a true pioneer of her time. This event promises not just a film, but a journey into the life of a woman whose dedication and passion changed lives and shaped history. Join us for an inspiring morning filled with laughter, insight, and the kind of motivation that propels you to make a difference in your own world.

Henrietta Szold was a Jewish American humanitarian whose legacy includes advocating for binational cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians. Born in 1860 in Baltimore, Szold was an avid student who assisted Jewish immigrants and established English-language night schools. A visit to Palestine in 1909, following a personal heartbreak, sparked her most lasting contributions: founding Hadassah to empower Jewish American women and provide aid to the region. Then, as the Nazis rose to power in Europe, Szold launched initiatives that saved the lives of thousands of Jewish children. Director Abby Ginzberg, granddaughter of Szold's unrequited love, Louis Ginzberg, grew up hearing stories of Szold's impact. In **Labors of Love**, she honors Szold's legacy and brings her story to life as a touching historical portrait as well as a roadmap for confronting the continued challenges of our time with compassion.

—review written by Karina Curry

To watch a trailer for this film, click on the link below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OB_Jj7xhGWw

Bring your friends, your enthusiasm, and an open heart as we celebrate the legacy of an extraordinary figure who reminds us all that love and commitment can indeed change the world! RSVP to

myragl@comcast.net.

A \$18 donation to Hadassah is appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Welcome to Our Newest Member!

Harris Drucker

Harris moved from Florida to Plymouth 3 years ago in order to live closer to his family. He is a retired massage therapist and interested in becoming involved with the Building/Grounds Committee.

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.](#)



Mazel Tov to Max Woods and His Family!

The Congregants of CBJ extend our exuberant congratulations to Max Woods, his parents, Kaitlyn and Lucas, and the entire Woods family on Max being called to the Torah and becoming a Bar Mitzvah on August 21st! Yasher Koach! (Good Job!)

Congratulations to Franny and Jeff Shelly and Robin and Gary Gersten!

At our Tu B'Av Service (Tu B'Av is the Israeli equivalent of Valentines' Day) on July 31st, Franny and Jeff, who have been married for 55 years, and Robin and Gary Gersten, who are celebrating 40 years of marriage, renewed their marriage vows in a beautiful reconsecration service under CBJ's chuppah. Mazel Tov! Take a look at the Reconsecration Certificates that each couple received and that they subsequently signed. How beautiful!



June 27, 1971



July 31, 2026

Marriage Reconsecration

*This is to certify that on the 17th day of Av in the year 5786
corresponding to the 31st day of July, 2026
in the year of their 55th anniversary*

Jeff and Franny Shelly

**Reaffirmed their love and commitment and
In the spirit of sanctity which hallows the Jewish
covenant of Kiddushin, they said to one another:**

**Affirming our covenant with God, may we be reconsecrated to one another.
May our lives be intertwined forever.**

**May we continue to grow together with trust and reverence for life and to
dream together in hope and faithfulness**

**May we continue to be a support to one another in times of sorrow, and
delight together in times of joy.**

**May we continue our care for one another, strengthening bonds made in
years past, continuing to appreciate the gifts with which we are blessed.**

DATE



SIGNATURE



August 31, 1986



July 31, 2026



Marriage Reconsecration

*This is to certify that on the 17th day of Av in the year 5786
corresponding to the 31st day of July, 2026
in the year of their 40th anniversary*

Gary and Robin Gersten

**Reaffirmed their love and commitment and
In the spirit of sanctity which hallows the Jewish
covenant of Kiddushin, they said to one another:**

**Affirming our covenant with God, may we be reconsecrated to one another.
May our lives be intertwined forever.**

**May we continue to grow together with trust and reverence for life and to
dream together in hope and faithfulness**

**May we continue to be a support to one another in times of sorrow, and
delight together in times of joy.**

**May we continue our care for one another, strengthening bonds made in
years past, continuing to appreciate the gifts with which we are blessed.**



DATE



SIGNATURE



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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.

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=NGWoLRbY7vz9FntslwWhbzU7XCn9J6.1>

Meeting ID: 834 2204 6402

Passcode: 208323



Our Capital Campaign is off and running! We ask every CBJ family to contribute as much as you comfortably can to transform our vision for a new synagogue building into a reality. **Small donations are just as important as larger ones, since large corporate donors analyze the percentage of participation from members before they determine how much they are willing to contribute. Even a donation of \$5.00 - the cost for a cup of coffee at Dunkin' - can make a significant impact on CBJ's ability to obtain financial contributions from large philanthropic organizations. (After all, if our own congregants are not committed to funding the construction of our new temple, why should anyone else support our fundraising efforts?)**

Together, we as a community can secure Plymouth's Jewish future and enable CBJ to grow as we continue on our journey to our new home! You can make pledges and donations online through our web site ([CLICK HERE](#)) or old fashioned checks still work. Please feel free to contact our co-Presidents, Devon Fernald and Dianne Bluestein, (president@cbjplymouth.org) if you have any questions, would like to discuss the Campaign, or commit to a pledge or donation.

Thank You to All Donors!

Thank you to our congregants and friends of CBJ who have already contributed to our Building Fund or who have pledged to make donations in the future. **Please remember that CBJ is now a certified 501 3(c) non-profit organization, so Qualified Charitable Donations (QCDs) may be made from your IRA Required Minimum Distributions.**

So What is Happening with the Construction of our New Building?

Our new temple will be a prefabricated building with external enhancements to transform the pre-fab "box" into a structure that is beautiful and spiritually significant. As we reported last month, we received a quote from one pre-fab builder, and our contractor, Ethan Kusmin, was in the process of soliciting additional external building quotes from other companies, believing that we will realize significant cost savings by going through this process. We have now received a new quote, which is nearly \$100,000 less than the previous estimate Ethan received, which gives us confidence that this is a strong and competitive proposal from a builder we can do business with. We are continuing to explore opportunities to reduce costs further. The CBJ Board has authorized the expenditure of up to \$120,000 for the purchase of building materials associated with the construction project.

The demolition permit for our new property is on its next steps. We removed asbestos and pests, and are now moving on to shutting down the gas and electric from the small house that's there. We have also given a deposit to the exterior builder contractor, and expect to receive those materials in the fall. We have also met with a local architect to start preparing the internal design. Nothing is decided or set in stone yet! We have also begun establishing a Building Committee and will announce this soon.

Looking forward to celebrating a sweet new year with you all!

Devon and Dianne



SAVE THE DATE

Hosted by the IMPJ, ARZENU and the URJ
In partnership with ACC, ARJE, ARZA US, ARZA Canada, CCAR, HUC, WRJ, and WUPJ

Israel's 2026 Elections: *Implications for the Israeli Reform Movement, Religious Pluralism, and Israeli Democracy*

Sunday, October 11 2026 | 1:00 PM ET / 10:00 AM PT / 8:00 PM Israel

[Click here to register](#)

Israel's 2026 Elections

Implications for the Israeli Reform Movement, Religious Pluralism, and Israeli Democracy

With

Tal Schneider, Diplomatic & Political
Correspondent

Anna Kislanski, IMPJ CEO

Orly Erez-Likhovski, Executive Director, IRAC



Sunday, October 11 | 30 Tishrei
10:00 AM PT | 1:00 PM ET | 8:00 PM Israel



Israel stands at a pivotal moment. As Israelis prepare to go to the polls, the choices they make will help shape the future of the country's democracy, the struggle for religious pluralism, and the place of Reform Judaism in Israeli society.

Join us for a timely, nonpartisan online program exploring the election landscape, the key issues shaping the campaign, and the possible political scenarios ahead, asking what they may mean for Israel's Jewish and democratic character.

The program will feature Tal Schneider, diplomatic and political correspondent for The Times of Israel. Her presentation will be followed by a conversation with Anna Kislanski, CEO of the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism, and Orly Erez-Likhovski, Executive Director of the Israel Religious Action Center, on the implications for the Israeli Reform Movement, religion and state, democratic institutions, equality, and the future of liberal Judaism in Israel.

The program will be held in English, with live subtitles available in French and Spanish.

Please register and indicate your language preference here.

<https://urj.tfaforms.net/2019>

Beit Sefer News

The First Day of Beit Sefer Classes is Sunday, September 27th!



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.

This year Beit Sefer will be studying American Judaism. The tentative calendar below lists dates and topics. We look forward to another great year. For information about registration for the 2026-2027 school year, please contact Rabbi Mills at cbjpymouthrabbi@gmail.com.

CONGREGATION BETH JACOB 2026-2027 BEIT SEFER CALENDAR

September 27, 2026	1. Sukkot Lesson
October 4, 2026	2. Simchat Torah Lesson
October 11, 2026	NO SCHOOL: Indigenous People Day
October 18, 2026	3. Jewish Life in the Colonies 1654-1776
October 25, 2026	4. Jewish Voices in Early America: Religious Liberty and Civic Participation
November 1, 2026	5. American Jews & the Civil War 1861-1865
November 8, 2026	6. Jewish Immigration to the U.S. 1881-1924
November 15, 2026	7. The Jewish American Experience
November 22, 2026	8. The Labor Movement 1900-1920
November 29, 2026	NO SCHOOL: Thanksgiving Weekend
December 6, 2026	9. Chanukah Lesson
December 13, 2026	10. American Jews & WWI 1917-1918
December 20, 2026	11. American Jews & WWII 1939-1945
December 27, 2026	NO SCHOOL: New Year's Break
January 3, 2027	NO SCHOOL: New Year's Break
January 10, 2027	12. The Civil Rights Movement 1950-1960
January 17, 2027	NO SCHOOL: President's Day Weekend
January 24, 2027	13. Tu B'shvat Lesson
January 31, 2027	14. Reel Experience: Our Story on Film
February 7, 2027	15. The diversity of Jewish Americans
February 14, 2027	NO SCHOOL WINTER BREAK
February 21, 2027	NO SCHOOL: WINTER BREAK
February 28, 2027	16. The Power of Music and Theatre
March 7, 2027	17. Reform/Conservative Judaism in the U.S.
March 14, 2027	18. Spotlight on American Orthodoxy
March 21, 2027	19. Purim Festivities
March 28, 2027	NO SCHOOL: Christian Holy Day
April 4, 2027	20. Jewish American Identity
April 11, 2027	21. Passover Lesson
April 18, 2027	NO SCHOOL: Spring Recess
April 25, 2027	22. Jewish American Contributions
May 2, 2027	23. Amazing Jewish Americans
May 9, 2027	NO SCHOOL: Mother's Day
May 16, 2027	24. Israeli Independence Day Lesson
May 23, 2027	25. Shavout Lesson
May 29-May 31,	Trip to Museum of American Jewish History

SPECIAL EVENTS

- ❖ **Saturday, September 12, 10 A.M.**
Rosh Hashana Youth Service
- ❖ **Sunday, September 13, 10 A.M.**
*Rosh Hashana Family Service/
Cookout/ Tashlikh*
- ❖ **Wednesday, September 21, 10 A.M.**
Yom Kippur Youth Service
- ❖ **Friday, September 25, 5:15 P.M.**
Beit Sefer Sukkot on the Farm
- ❖ **Friday, October 2, 6:00 P.M.**
Family Simchat Torah & Service
- ❖ **Friday, March 19, 6:00 P.M.***
Family Purim Dinner & Service
- ❖ **Thursday, April 22, 5:30 P.M.**
Second Night Passover Seder
- ❖ **Saturday, May 29- Monday, May 31**
*Tentative Family trip to Weitzman
Museum of American Jewish History*

[To download this calendar, click HERE.](#)

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](#).



**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.

There's No Harm in Asking....



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!

We are also looking for a person to serve on the CBJ Board as Recording Secretary. This position entails recording the Minutes for the monthly Board meetings, providing a written summary of issues discussed, motions made and decisions voted upon by the Board.

We are also seeking a creative person with journalistic skills to assume responsibility for editing The Weekly Update and our monthly newsletter, The Tent, starting in July, 2027. Training and support will be provided.

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!

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:

September 4: Rabbi Sandra and Arnold Bellush - in honor of Rabbi Jan Katzew and Cantor Lanie Katzew

September 25: The Beit Sefer families for the Oneg following Sukkot services

And thank you, as always, to our Sisterhood, who has provided light refreshments following our Selichot service and challah following our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Evening services.



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

Building Fund Donations:

Rhonda Spigel in honor of Hyman Spekman's 75th birthday

Building Fund:

Allan & Judith Sherman - in loving memory of Judith's mother, Sylvia Krenis

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:

Sarah Kolitz - in memory of Jonathan Mintz

General Fund:

Judyth Stavans - in appreciation to Seth Teles for providing Shiva services to the Gladstein family

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, 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.](#)



Mi Sheiberach (Prayers for Healing)

We pray for the Healing and Recovery of the following people, as well as all of those throughout the world who are suffering from violence, war and famine:

Ina Lashin
Joseph Keller
Tracey Gutman
John R. Sore
Susan Basiri
Mary Ellen Dalgren
Maryann Leonard
Sandy Magnes Silverman
Julian Lindquist
Erin Sullivan
Linda Dauber
Susan Penchansky
Callan Crowley
Lynne Matson

Lauren DeFranzo
Nan Noble
Len Kaplan
Marilyn Levine
Chris Davis
Ruth Anne Repking
Meredith Hoffman
Marlene Benjamin
Susan Moore
Trisha Brown
Carolyn Kniffen
Jeffrey Smith
Rabbi Lawrence Silverman
Richard Olsen

[To hear the beautiful song, Heal Us Now, performed by Hazamir Hasharon, click here.](#)



Yahrzeits That Will be Observed This Month

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

September

1	Phil Blumenthal	Rabbi Mills' Uncle
1	Louis Lipetz	Irene Sarke's father
1	Mary L. Waterman	
2	Claire Jonas	Harry Shamir's grandmother
2	Ludwig Jonas	Harry Shamir's grandfather
2	Myron Aaron Policow	Past President
2	Celia Resnick	
2	Dorothy Schwartz	Michael Schwartz's mother
2	Lucy R. Simons	Lanie Katzew's mother
3	Abraham Sussman Brodie	
3	Judah Leib Sherman	Allan's great-grandfather
3	Jacob Shwom	Past CBJ President
4	Samuel Milner	
4	Dorothy Hyatt Smick	Arnold&Lois Weiss
5	Harry Golden	
6	Deborah Arons	Paula Keller's Cousin
7	Joyce Mills	Rabbi Mills' mother-in-law
8	Edward Albert	Ruth Albert Shiff's brother
8	George Gilbert	Don Gilbert family
8	Julius Louis Putnam	Allan Sherman's grandfather
9	David Lipschitz	Rabbi Mills Grandfather
10	Harold Righter	William Righter family
11	Vickie Blass Fitzgerald	
12	Gail E. Jacobson	former CBJ member
12	Martha Lury	Gail Wax's mother
13	Ann Starr	Nancy Starr Pecorella's mom
13	Claire Sternfield	Marcia Baum's mother
14	Taylor Nava	Glover family friend
14	Betty Rodman	David' Rodman's wife
15	Bertha Klaff	
16	Rose Cohen	Debbie & Ben Cohen's mother
17	Helene Avraham-Katz	Rabbi Mills' cousin
17	Jack Bello	Susan Winokur's father
17	Jeffrey Levin	Past President, Elissa Davis' father
17	Ruth Albert Shiff	Daughter of Founder
17	Benedict Veiner	Cele Toabe's brother
18	Morris Bloom	CBJ member

18	Bessie Sophie Putnam	Allan Sherman's grandmother
18	Miriam E. Stutman	Mel Klasky's sister
18	Merlie Vidette	Member and outstanding baker!
18	Rita Goldorf Boskey	Madeline Boskey's mother
19	Jacob Kaplan	Fay Meltzer's father
19	Bessie Keller	Harry Keller's mother
19	Harry Mankoff	Adeline Winokur's father
20	Howard Myron Boskey	Madeline Boskey's father
21	Isaac Barron	
21	Burton Cowan	Past President
23	Edith Poretsky	Rhonda John's mother
24	Phillip Gerber	Robin Hunter's stepfather
24	Bernard Kusmin	Ethan Kusmin's grandfather
24	Steven Sandler	Myra Glansberg's cousin
25	Isaac Stein	Carolyn & Louis Stein
25	Max Toabe	CBJ Founder; Mitchell Toabe's father
25	Samuel Toabe	Mitchell Toabe's half-brother
25	Alan Sommerman	Madeline Boskey's friend
26	Mitchell David Cohen	Debbie Cohen's uncle
26	Harriette Minsky	Steve Minsky's mother
26	Reubin Winokur	Past President;/Steve & Larry Winokur's father
27	Sydney Glansberg	Ken Glansberg's father
27	Ari Meltzer	Len Meltzer's first wife
29	Celia Aranowitz	Manny Arons' mother
30	Hyman Hurwitz	James Hurwitz's father
30	Milly Russo	Ray' Russo's wife; Mark & Jonathan Russo's mother

May their memory forever abide as a blessing.

Yahrzeit Donations

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



Heartfelt Condolences to the Gladstein Family

The congregants of CBJ send our heartfelt condolences to our long-time member, Arnold Gladstein, and the entire Gladstein family, on the passing of Arnold's beloved wife, Alyce, on August 8th. May Alyce live forever in the hearts of all who knew and loved her, and may her memory forever abide as a blessing.



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, September 14, 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

**The Next Sisterhood Program Will Be in October.
Watch for Details!**

**Sisterhood wishes everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year (5787)!
Sisterhood Dues for 2026-2027 (5787) Are Now Payable**

Please Join Sisterhood!

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

\$54- diamond level

Please send your check, payable to CBJ Sisterhood, to:

Cindy Teles

31 Birch Ave. Plymouth, MA 02360.

OR

You may pay online at

<https://my.cheddarup.com/c/cbj-sisterhood/items> Thank you!

Sisterhood Application Form for 2026-2027

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.

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!

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 Honey Cake



This delicious honey cake is super moist, full of flavor and easy to make! **YIELD** 1 loaf

Ingredients

- 1 and $\frac{1}{3}$ cups (160g) all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon ground cloves or nutmeg , optional
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup (100g) light brown sugar (or granulated sugar)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup (180g) honey
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup (120 ml) canola or vegetable oil
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water
- 2 large eggs
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup (25g) sliced almonds or other nuts, for the topping, optional

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 340°F/170°C. Grease a 9×5-inch loaf pan.
2. In a medium bowl whisk together flour, baking soda, baking powder, and spices. Set aside.
3. In a small saucepan over low heat, heat together sugar, honey, oil, and water for 1-2 minutes until smooth. Transfer mixture to a large bowl and allow to cool for several minutes. Whisk in eggs until combined. Add flour mixture and fold until just combined. Do not over mix.
4. Pour the batter into prepared loaf pan. Sprinkle with nuts. Bake for 40-50 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean. If the top is browning too fast while baking, cover pan loosely with aluminum foil. Allow cake to cool for 10 minutes, then remove from pan and set on a wire rack to cool completely.
5. The cake is best served at room temperature. This cake will keep for 5 days in an airtight container in the refrigerator.