Night of 100 Menorahs

Photos by David Kurjan
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<th>SUN</th>
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<td>10 AM Judaica Shop Open</td>
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<td>Parashat Shemot</td>
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<td>9 AM Religious School</td>
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<td>12:15 PM Hebrew School</td>
<td>2 PM Set Up for Sisterhood Luncheon</td>
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<td>9 AM Religious School</td>
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**Student Cantor Daniel Geigerman**

- January 26-28
- February 23-25
- March 30-April 1
- April 20-22
- May 18-20
# Save the Date for February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>The Hunger Coalition</td>
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<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Shabbat Service with Shabbat Choir</td>
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<td>11:15 AM</td>
<td>Special Boker Tov Service-Ten Commandments</td>
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<td>12:15 PM</td>
<td>Hebrew School</td>
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<td>Executive Committee</td>
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<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Adult B’nai Mitzvah Class-Group A</td>
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<td>Membership Committee</td>
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<td>Kabbalat Shabbat Service - Youth Group (Family)</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>SaturdayNightALive: The Musical</td>
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<td>Judaica Shop Open</td>
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<td>B’nai Mitzvah Parent Meeting - Session Four</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Purim Megillah Reading Service</td>
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**Sweetheart Luncheon**

**Wednesday, February 14, 2018**

**11:30 AM**

**presenting the**

**CBY “Antiques Road Show”**

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**$20 CBY Women**  **$25 Guests**

Professional antique dealers will verbally appraise up to three of your favorite antiques. Bring your jewelry, artwork, misc. family treasures for $10 per appraisal (three for $25) at the door. Contact Tena Graber to make your reservations no later than February 7, 2018.
Rabbi’s Message

One of the projects that I am most excited about this year in the spring of 2018 is the forthcoming B’nai Mitzvah of eight unique human beings in our congregation who have been working diligently to prepare for their Bar and Bat Mitzvah. They began their studies in the spring of 2016 and have worked on learning Hebrew and studying Judaism. Now these students of Torah are getting ready for the final leg of this journey. You will hear more about it as we get closer to the date. One of the aspects of this experience that they are now beginning is studying for the purpose of writing a Torah drash sermonette.

I am meeting each one of them individually and discussing their ideas on the Torah portion that they have been assigned for this blessed day. They are delving into the texts of the Torah and the Rabbis and pondering their own perspectives about Torah and its relationship to the past and to the world they live in today.

I am reminded of a text from the Talmud on this exciting venture. God said, “Is not My word like fire and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?” (Jeremiah 23:29) “As a hammer divides fire into many sparks, so one verse of Scripture has many meanings and many explanations.” (Babylonian Talmud-Sanhedrin 34a)

I am so proud of these adults who are all seniors but who have the youth and vigor to stretch themselves into the realm of learning in a way that they had never before experienced. The study of Torah, including the weekly Torah portion, is the focus of their speeches. Judaism sends a message that there is not just one way or one interpretation of a story or a law or a piece of poetry or even a letter and vowel. Our sages compare the learning process to swimming in a sea of Torah knowledge. I sense our students are beginning to get the idea that learning is the pathway to all the commandments in the Torah. The newness of this discovery is exhilarating and exciting. They are miners who dig deep into the caverns of the Torah to find that one insight which speaks to them spiritually and intellectually.

Our monthly Torah study group that meets on Saturday mornings also mines for new insights and delights in the discovery of new ideas, as they also learn and discuss the multiple meanings in the weekly Torah portion. I only wish that more of us would take the time and try out the study group we have on Saturday mornings. I personally receive such nachas from these students, including our forthcoming B’nai Mitzvah students. We are all learning that no matter what age we are, we can bring our own life experience to the sacred texts. We revere them when we stand up as the Torah is brought out in front of the congregation. We process with them, and people use their prayer books and their Talitot to kiss the Torah as a sign of affection and respect. What I am saying is let’s go further and actually open up the books themselves and open up our hearts and our eyes to the wonder and the stimulating dialogue. We have the voices of the past who speak to us and who also yearned to delve into the manifold meanings of Torah study.

So let’s make one New Year’s resolution for 2018 by saying that we will give Torah learning a try. Get out of our comfort zone and try a new experience! We might very well be surprised with results of our learning.

The rabbis said, “Why are the words of Torah like fire? A fire is built by many logs and the words of Torah survive only through many minds.” (Talmud Taanit 7) That is exactly how we keep learning alive - by the many beautiful minds of our students both young and old.

Shalom,

Rabbi Brad L. Bloom MSW DD

Faith in Action...

Please take a minute to look at my recent column in the Island Packet. I urge you to keep my "Faith in Action" column alive by clicking here and sharing it with friends and family. I always welcome your thoughts and comments.  http://www.islandpacket.com/living/religion/faith-in-action/

Dear Friends,

My family and I are overwhelmed with the outpouring of affection that is being shown to our beloved Sue. In time, I will get to each of you personally to extend my thanks, but right now I hope you will accept this note as a way of my saying that Sue and I always thought it a privilege to be members of the Beth Yam community and your actions over the past weeks have reinforced this again and again.

Thank you one and all for your kindness and good wishes.

Mike Fritz
As we begin the new year of 2018, on behalf of my entire family I wish everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year. With the start of the new year I would like to remind you about Tzedakah and the concept of Jewish philanthropy. Tzedakah is the responsibility to give aid, assistance, and money to the poor, needy, or to worthwhile causes. Tzedakah is Hebrew and means righteousness, fairness or justice. Tzedakah is one of the most important mitzvahs and is more than just giving money to the poor; it is sharing compassion and empathy and giving with a full heart.

The State of Israel will be 70 years old this spring, and Jewish organizations around the world are gearing up for many celebrations. Congregation Beth Yam is also planning a special celebration to commemorate this milestone birthday. Yom Ha Atzmaut, Israel Independence Day, will be celebrated with a concert on Saturday evening, April 21, and on Sunday, April 22, a major celebration will be held at Jarvis Creek Park. Please mark your calendar for these important events.

Are you enjoying all that Congregation Beth Yam has to offer?

We have interesting and thought provoking monthly Torah studies, and starting this month we will be having several Hot Topic Shabbats with very compelling subject matters. As always we will have a bagel breakfast before each Hot Topic program begins. Please plan to join us for these interesting Shabbat mornings.

Beginning in February, the Adult Education Committee is providing the congregation with a Film Festival celebrating Israel’s 70th birthday.

A new “very much Off-Broadway” production written by our own Lindy Lindenbaum will be presented in February.

Please consider attending these interesting and enjoyable events, and then give some thought to actually participating in committees that plan and present these events. One of your New Year’s resolutions should be to become a more engaged member of Congregation Beth Yam.

Wishing everyone a Healthy Happy New Year.

Shalom,

Pennie

Fun Facts for January:
* January is National Hobby Month
* January is National Book Month
* January is National Soup Month
* January is National Oatmeal Month
* January is National Thank You Month

Board Abstract

Sharon Bass, Recording Secretary
December 11, 2017

- Meeting called to order by President Pennie Meiselman
- Board Prayer read
- D’Var Torah given by Rabbi Bloom
- Minutes approved from October meeting
- Treasurer reported dues payments have been coming in ahead of last year’s rate
- Beach Brunch raised $1,550 and will be put into the Cantor Fund
- Rabbi’s Report
  - Rabbi reported he is starting a middle school program in January as well continuing his high school program
- He spoke about his attendance at the URJ biennial and said he is able to gather good reference guides to aid in his work at CBY at these meetings
- Has started researching another trip to Israel
- Membership Report
- Membership presented two new members for Cong Beth Yam board consideration
- Members were approved
- Cong Beth Yam Mission Statement will be updated and a Vision Statement will be presented for review and approval
- David Kurjan said all is ready for upcoming Night of 100 Menorahs
- Good and Welfare
- Meeting adjourned
Sisterhood—
Sue Gostanian, President

Happy New Year!
It is a time to take a deep breath and look to the
new year as well as honoring the past. A
favorite quote of mine comes from a collection of
affirmations by Melodie Beattie:
“Goals give us direction. The new year stands
before us like a chapter in a book waiting to be written. We can
help write that story by setting goals”.

What an opportunity! As I reflect on the last year and a
half, I am mindful of the chapters written before me ... of the
foundation I “inherited”. Collective good works and generous
deeds are part of the foundation that characterizes
Sisterhood. For us, joy comes with giving.

We are honored to share with the children of CBY through
our contributions to the camp fund. We have gladly joined
other congregants in helping families impacted by hurricanes
and flooding. We have enjoyed cooking and serving at a
community soup kitchen. Joyfully, we stock a food pantry at
VIM twice a month.

As we continue to benefit our congregation and community,
we will fill the chapter with events that honor our Jewish
heritage and commitment to continue to "pay it forward". The
upcoming Antique Roadshow will raise funds to continue our
commitments to the congregation. The Women's Seder and
Community Seder help us to celebrate and honor our heritage
together.

My goal is simple: I want to honor the members of
Sisterhood by acknowledging their incredible
accomplishments. And I urge us to continue to write our story
based on generosity and integrity.

Yours in Sisterhood,

Sue

TREASURER'S REPORT

Since June 2017, it has been my pleasure to take on the
duties of Sisterhood treasurer. We continue to raise money so
that we may support CBY, our religious school, and charities in
our community. Through events and donations to our funds,
we hope to meet the goals we have set. Thank you for
supporting us.  Carol Carty

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT

Condolences:
• To Mike Fritz in memory of his wife, Suzanne

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE
The Nominating Committee will be meeting soon to
nominate the 2018-2019
Sisterhood Board. If you are interested in serving on this
committee or would like to recommend someone for a Board
position, please contact Cathy Kite (843) 671-7399.

SAVE THE DATE
• The next Book Club will meeting on February 8. Details to
follow.
• Remember our Sweetheart Luncheon on February 14th,
featuring the ANTIQUE ROAD SHOW! Appraisals are
available at $10 per object or 3 for $25. Cost of the
luncheon for members is $20. Non-member guests $25.
• Please join us for a very special study group on
Wednesday, February 7:
  * Across time and place and cultures, women have been
uniquely celebrated in oral and written literature. In
certain mythologies, in narrations of mystical
encounters with the sacred feminine, and in ritual
songs, dances and spoken histories, women often
appear in special connectedness to the land, the
people, and the cycles of nature, life, and death. At the
Women's Study Group on February 7, CBY member
Sandee Willis will offer a reading and discussion of
selected contemporary poems by women writers which
uniquely expand on these themes.
  * As seats are limited, please respond early; only the first
20 reservations can be accepted. (Location TBA.).
Please send RSVPs and dairy potluck preferences
(appetizer, entree, salad, or dessert) to Janice Fradkin
at 843-715-9514.

SPOTLIGHTING: Randy Kurjan
(This month our page is including something new ... an
interview with a Sisterhood member. Randy kindly agreed to
be our first subject.)

Question: What is a little-known fact about your childhood?
Randy: “I did a lot of theater from middle school through
college, including summer theater. Then my father said,
‘Get real - you need a job that pays’”.

Question: If you were to receive a Life-time Achievement
award, what would it be for?
Randy: “It would be for my work as a speech and language
pathologist”.
Randy has spent over 42 years working in the field,
focusing on helping babies from birth to three overcome
myriad developmental challenges from Down’s Syndrome
to autism to physical issues impacting speech and
language acquisition. A big part of the effort involves
teaching parents to work with their children and
“empowering them” to advocate.
Currently, Randy works two days a week for a South
Carolina county program called BabyNet, meeting with her
small ones at their home or in Day Care. “It is important to
work with these children in their natural environment.”
Randy stated, with easy warmth, “I get so much pleasure
from my work.”

Question: If you could invite three people to a dinner party,
who would you ask?
Randy: Stephen Spielberg. “Because I love movies and I
love what he does.”

Continued on next page
Barack Obama. “Because he has such high ideals. I would cry on his shoulder” about things today.
And Meryl Streep. “She is so amazing. I would pick her brain about how she gets into character with all her different roles.”

Question: And what would you serve?
Randy: “I would explore a vegan or vegetarian meal. In part because I would want them to know who I am. I am an animal lover and made a choice to eat vegetarian. I would definitely make a soup first. It makes people feel comfortable. I would bake a challah. For dessert, maybe rugalach and an apple crisp with vanilla ice cream. For the main meal, I would pour over recipes looking for something with root vegetables.”

Question: What is your least favorite word?
Randy: “No!”
Adult Education—
Barbara Slagowitz, Chairman

Congregation Beth Yam’s second annual film festival will celebrate Israel’s 70th birthday by featuring Israeli films and documentaries. Discussions will follow each film, and wine will be served. Look for the Small Tidings and the e-blast which will have all the details.

Sneak preview:
Our first film is the documentary which depicts why Israel had to be founded. It was shown to our participants in the March of the Living earlier this year. It’s a powerful must-see. Advisory – bring tissues.

Our New Testament study group will start this month under the direction of Rabbi Bloom. There is still room; contact Barbara Slagowitz if you are interested.

Care Committee—
Carol Carty & Janice Fradkin

The first day of Chanukah was celebrated at CBY with over 80 congregants and guests in attendance at the annual Care Committee party. Rabbi Bloom led us in the menorah lighting, prayers, and song. This was followed by a luncheon of latkes, corned beef, tuna salad, sufganiot, and fruit. No holiday party would be complete without entertainment, and everyone enjoyed the “good old days” once again with the fun harmonies and patter of Vintage Four, a local barbershop quartet.

Many thanks to Fred Carty for arranging the entertainment and a big round of applause to all of our volunteers for set-up and serving the Chanukah meal: Teresa Bedo, Susan and Mark Britanisky, JoAnne Doyle, Judy Gimbel, Elaine Israel, Ruth Hilsen, Ellen Jenner, Randy and David Kurjan, Sandy Leff, Sharon Leff, Joel Lerner, Sheila Margeson, Felicia Pascal, and Joey Perchick.

Ritual Committee—
David Kurjan, Chair

This month we begin, arguably, the most critical book of the Torah – Exodus. It is in these chapters and verses that we read the story of the children of Israel who were enslaved in Egypt and their miraculous redemption and liberation through the hand of Moses. We are all familiar with Moses’ rescue from the Nile by Pharaoh’s daughter, the appearance of God in the burning bush, the return to Egypt and the ten plagues, and finally the path through the Red Sea (Sea of Reeds).

The children of Israel had a quick lesson to learn about following God. They knew they were heading to the land of Canaan. They would have assumed that they would simply follow the coastal route up out of Egypt, along the Mediterranean, and be back in Canaan in a few days. However, God does not take shortcuts.

The coastal highway was guarded by Egyptian garrisons. God did not want the military confrontations to dissuade the people. Besides, He had some important things to teach them in the wilderness before they arrived at Canaan. He wanted to deliver them at the Red Sea and give them the Torah at Sinai before leading them to the land.

We are often in a hurry to reach our dreams and our goals. It is frustrating to take long cuts through the wilderness. God is more interested in seeing us develop in spiritual maturity than He is in seeing us arrive at our dreams and goals. He will often lead us on long, seemingly circuitous routes in order to teach us and prepare us for the things that lie ahead. He wants to build our character. When we rush in without His training, we find ourselves surprised by the challenges and never arrive where we intend. As part of this education, we need to be able to step up and become leaders ourselves.
Men’s Club—Alan Krumholz, President

The Men’s Club held its December dinner meeting on the 5th of December at Frankie Bones Restaurant. We held a brief meeting and enjoyed each other’s company over a festive dinner.

Future meetings for 2018:
Jan 11 (Thur) Lunch meeting
Feb 11 (Sun) Brunch meeting offsite (Gruby’s)
Mar 13 (Tue) Lunch and Board meeting
Apr 17 (Tue) Lunch and Board meeting
May 8 (Tue) Dinner Meeting at Frankie Bones
June 24 (Sun) Board and Annual Meeting Brunch at CBY

The Golf Tournament funds were distributed to the usual local charities and to the CBY Friends Fund. Please contact Nelson Adelman or Mike Werner of our events committee with any ideas for new events, or revivals of old meeting programs. We welcome your suggestions for short programs for future meetings and larger scale events.

NOTE: If you are a dues paying member and not receiving our regular monthly e-mails, please contact me at mensclub.cby@gmail.com and let me know so that we can correct this oversite; I will update our list to include your direct e-mail. Thanks for your cooperation.

Social Action - Judie Aronson, Chair

December was a busy month for SAC. The Bloodmobile served 22 people on December 3. We will hold another event next year on December 2. Thank you all who donated blood.

Our Children’s Center Chanukah party saw 85 children who sang Chanukah songs, decorated cookies, learned the dreidel games, and were given mittens as gifts.

Bluffton Self Help and Deep Well had help from 16 members who stocked shelves for these worthy food pantries. We will hold another event in May. Visit the Hilton Head and Bluffton libraries to see the Chanukah displays.

Save the SAC Date:
- February 22, 7:00-9:00 PM The Opioid Crisis: Who is at risk?
- An education panel discussion by four professionals who will discuss various ideas of opioids in Beaufort County.
- March–Mazon collections with Sisterhood at Women’s Seder and Community Seder
- April–Hot Topics with Rabbi Bloom
- More information to follow
Israel at 70—by Judy Bluestone

Throughout 2018, the State of Israel and Jewish communities across the world will celebrate 70 years since Israel’s recognition as an independent Jewish nation.

Here’s a little history...
Following the defeat of the Ottoman Empire in World War I, the British assumed control of Palestine. In November 1917, the British government issued the Balfour Declaration announcing its intention “to facilitate the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people.” But the intention appeared to be empty as the British restricted immigration to Palestine for thirty years, and it took World War II, a devastating holocaust of European Jews, much debate in the United Nations, and, finally, a supportive American President to reach the official approval of the Jewish State. The British Mandate expired on May 14, 1948, and David Ben Gurion, Israel’s first Prime Minister, immediately proclaimed the State of Israel. The United States recognized the State of Israel on May 15, 1948, and the Soviet Union soon followed suit.

The new State of Israel was faced with many challenges. While fighting a war of survival with the Arab states who immediately invaded the new nation, Israel had to absorb the shiploads of immigrants coming in daily to the Jewish homeland. Many were penniless refugees from Europe, broken in body and spirit. They needed immediate health and social services, and that’s where Jewish communities the world over really stepped up with support of every kind.

More history to come over the next few months as we test your knowledge about Israel.

This year CBY will be celebrating in style with some edifying and entertaining programming, culminating in a fantastic weekend April 20-22, 2018.

Some highlights...
- Adult Education Committee movie series: February 20, March 6, and March 20
- Religious School Mini Maccabiah: winter-spring session
- Celebration Weekend: April 20: Family Shabbat Service/Yom Hazikaron
- April 21: “A Musical Journey through Seven Decades of Israel”, written by Cantor Daniel Geigerman and performed by CBY Shabbat Choir, Adriana Urato, and soloists
- April 22: Religious School Maccabiah Competition at CBY and Jarvis Creek Park. Israeli food and a stroll through the CBY “shuk” (Israeli market) open all weekend.

One more thing…please join add your name to our list of friends wishing happy birthday to Israel for $18. Your name will appear in our Israel at 70 program and Todah Rabah…thank you very much!

Membership Committee—Candy Solomon & Michael Weingarten, Co-chairs

We are looking forward to having a great turnout at our annual Pot Luck dinner to be held on Friday, January 12. This activity is sponsored by the Membership Committee. Please RSVP to Gay Birnbaum. You don’t want to miss this event!

We are in the process of updating the Family Directory with any corrections and additions that members may have. Please send your updated information to the office.

Our New Member/Ambassador Party is scheduled for Sunday, March 25. We are going to invite interested and prospective members to our wine tasting event.

Please welcome the following new members to CBY:
- Irene Lebow (resident single)
- Bill Fischer (resident single).

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**Saturday Night ALIVE!**

**Featuring the CBY Meeting Street Players**

**DO YOU REMEMBER . . . of course, how could anyone forget the unforgettable sounds: happy, haunting, bold, pensive.**

The legendary “Fiddler on the Roof”!

The very name brings a smile and a boisterous shout of “Traditions!”.

Well, on Saturday, February 17, 2018, at 7:30 PM. right here at CBY, we’ll offer our own local southern version with a new story line featuring noted soloists and professional musicians from CBY, blended into a humorous original tale of how to lose “wonderful” and then find “wonderment.” We will treat you with coffee, cordials, and cake. And only $25 per person.

“This is one that you don’t have to be a rich man to afford.” *Cleveland Plain-Dealer*

Then, as “Fiddler” has enthralled us for generations, our new tale will leave you laughing for minutes. Plus we have a special surprise to make the evening more memorable. **But we have a strict limit of 125 – so reserve your tickets early.** Check the CBY website for the link to order tickets or **CLICK HERE.**

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**Fund Raising Committee – Alan Meiselman, Chair**

Fund Raising Committee Jan. 2018

We began our season at the Beach BRUNCH with Mimosas and finished it at Okko with sake on December 24. We enjoyed the Comedy Club, as well as candle lighting at Crave.

As we begin a new calendar year we resolved to provide a busy and enjoyable winter and spring of dining adventures and participatory evenings. We are planning seven dinners, a very off-Broadway show, the “Ultimate 50/50” (more on this later), and a rescheduled Hold-em Poker Plus.

Our first Dine-Around of the year will be at Hog’sHead Kitchen and Wine Bar in Moss Creek on Wednesday, January 17. Two weeks later we will go, for the first time, to Darren Clarke’s Tavern, on Wednesday January 31. In February we will return to the Sage Room on Wednesday the 8th. All reservations should go to Robin Krumholz.

A unique theatrical presentation will take place on Saturday, February 17. Look for details elsewhere in the Tidings. It will be a show that shouldn’t be missed.

All these events help CBY balance our budget while enabling us to get together for an enjoyable evening.
A number of New York City mayors had a habit of asking this question. Of course, the preferred answer was, "You're doing great" because that's what politicians want to hear. In the reality of the world of charitable giving it's a little bit easier because the answer is in exact numbers. We compare two principal numbers, total donations and total number of donors, last year's numbers and this year's goals. That works rather well most of the time with Friends: our community of donors is fairly stable due to the size of our Congregation which stays relatively stable. We'd like to have a growing congregation, adding more new members faster than we lose members but the fact is we have about 305 members and that number has stayed about the same for the last four years. We gain some and we lose some but considering the average age of a congregant is just over seventy years old, we're doing pretty well. On the other hand, just as we all grow older, costs rise every year and the expenses rise every year. Dues are adjusted slightly upward annually but there is also the need to raise voluntary giving each year.

The principal source of voluntary giving at Beth Yam is the Friends Campaign. The Friends Campaign budget requirement for 2017-2018 is $82,000. Through November 30, 2017, the total amount received is $41,947 from 89 donors. It's impossible to compare the donations to last year at the same time because of last year's Hurricane Matthew. It is encouraging that the number of donors is almost 60% of last year's 161 donors and we are only two months into the Friends' year.

We make a real effort not to drive our members "meshuggah" with eblasts, emails or calls but if we are to reach Friends' financial goals and the Congregation's revenue budget, we need everyone to give and give just a little more than last year. We recognize that we all receive dozens of requests for charitable donations, particularly at the end of the year but there is really only one Jewish charity focused on Jewish life in the Hilton Head, Bluffton and the Carolina Low country. That focused Jewish charity is Congregation Beth Yam. Please make your 2017-2018 Beth Yam Friends contribution today

Thank you for your past and current support.
Group 4 Builders constructs and installs...

Kitchens, Master and Guest Bathrooms, Hardwood and Porcelain Floors, Carpeting, Decorative Lighting, Spas and Custom Pools...call us for a free consult on your next project.

Whether you are thinking about remodeling or adding a room to your home, give us a call for design and product ideas.

Check out our website www.hiltonheadgroup4builders.com for a look at some of the jobs we have completed.

Wishing you a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

Jack Resnick, Owner
Group 4 Builders, LLC
843-422-6925
jack1899resnick@gmail.com
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David Kurjan  
Jeremy Press  
Nadyne Ulicny  

Rabbi Brad L. Bloom  
Sisterhood President, Sue Gostanian  
Men’s Club President, Alan Krumholz

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Live Stream Videos of past services can be viewed on the CBY website by going to the Home/Media/Video Player web page. Click the link to go directly there. [http://www.bethyam.org/media-galleries/video-player](http://www.bethyam.org/media-galleries/video-player)

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