Remembering Kristallnacht
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<th>SUN</th>
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</table>
| **Student Cantor Olivia Brodsky**
December 7-9   January 18-20   February 22-24   March 22-24   April 19-21   May 3-5   June 7-9 |
| **Chanukah: 1 Candle**
9 AM  Religious School
10 AM  Judaica Shop Open
11:30 AM  Boker Tov Service
12:15 PM  Hebrew School
5 PM  Candle Lighting
6 PM  Dine-Together Crave |
| **Chanukah: 2 Candles**
10 AM  Ritual Committee
3:30 PM  Set up for the Executive Committee
4 PM  Executive Committee
6 PM  Lishmah Seminar |
| **Chanukah: 3 Candles**
1 PM  Anti-Defamation Meeting
3 PM  Gala Committee |
| **Chanukah: 4 Candles**
1 PM  Judaica Shop Open
3 PM  Endowment Trustees
4 PM  Staff Meeting
7 PM  Shabbat Choir Rehearsal |
| **Chanukah: 5 Candles**
10 AM  Budget & Finance Committee
11:30 AM  Judy Aronson Scholarship Committee
2:15 PM  Sisterhood P&P Committee
4 PM  Adult Ed New Testament Study Group |
| **Chanukah: 6 Candles**
7 PM  Judaica Shop Open
16 PM  Shabbat Service Night of 100 Menorahs with SC Brodsky |
| **Chanukah: 7 Candles**
1 PM  Anti-Defamation Meeting
3 PM  Gala Committee |
| **Rosh Chodesh Tevet**
**Chanukah: 8 Candles**
9 AM  Religious School
11:30 AM  Boker Tov Service
2 PM  Chanukah Party (off site) |
| **Chanukah: 8th Day**
2 PM  Communications Meeting
3:30 PM  Set up for the Board Meeting
4 PM  Board Meeting |
| **Parashat Vayeshev**
1 PM  Anti-Defamation Meeting
3 PM  Gala Committee |
| **Parashat Miketz**
**Chanukah: 7 Candles**
9 AM  Religious School
11:30 AM  Madrichim Seminar
11:30 AM  Boker Tov Service
12:15 PM  Hebrew School Religious School Committee |
| **Parashat Vayigash**
1 PM  Anti-Defamation Meeting
3 PM  Gala Committee |
| 1 PM  Judaica Shop Open
4 PM  Staff Meeting |
| 12:30 PM  Sisterhood Book Club
3 PM  Fund Raising Committee Communications Meeting |
| 5 PM  Judaica Shop Open
6 PM  Kabbalat Shabbat Service |
| 10 AM  Torah Study with SC Brodsky |
| 3 PM  Back Pack Buddies
4 PM  Adult Ed New Testament Study Group |
| 7 PM  Shabbat Service
- Night of 100 Menorahs with SC Brodsky |
| 3 PM  Endowment Trustees
4 PM  Staff Meeting |
| 7:30 PM  Shabbat Service
- Torah Discussion |
| 5 PM  Judaica Shop Open
6 PM  Kabbalat Shabbat Service |
| 9 AM  Religious School
9:30 AM  Madrichim Seminar
11:30 AM  Boker Tov Service
12:15 PM  Hebrew School Religious School Committee |
| 3:30 PM  SAC Meeting |
| 1 PM  Judaica Shop Open
4 PM  Staff Meeting
7 PM  Shabbat Choir Rehearsal |
| 1 PM  Membership Committee
3 PM  Back Pack Buddies
4 PM  Adult Ed New Testament Study Group |
| 5 PM  Judaica Shop Open
6 PM  Kabbalat Shabbat Service |
| **Parashat Vayechi**
9 AM  Religious School
9:30 AM  Madrichim Seminar
11:30 AM  Boker Tov Service
12:15 PM  Hebrew School Religious School Committee |
| 1 PM  Judaica Shop Open
4 PM  Staff Meeting
7 PM  Shabbat Choir Rehearsal |
| 1 PM  Membership Committee
3 PM  Back Pack Buddies
4 PM  Adult Ed New Testament Study Group |
| 5 PM  Judaica Shop Open
6 PM  Kabbalat Shabbat Service |
| 9 AM  Torah Study with SC Brodsky |
| No Religious School-Winter Break |
| 6 PM  Dine-Together Mikki’s |
| **OFFICE CLOSED**
1 PM  Judaica Shop Open
3 PM  Sisterhood Board
4 PM  Staff Meeting |
| 1 PM  Judaica Shop Open
3 PM  Sisterhood Board
4 PM  Staff Meeting |
| 1 PM  Judaica Shop Open
3 PM  Sisterhood Board
4 PM  Staff Meeting |
| 7:30 PM  Shabbat Service |
| **Parashat Shemot**
9 AM  Religious School
9:30 AM  Madrichim Seminar
11:30 AM  Boker Tov Service
12:15 PM  Hebrew School Religious School Committee |
| 3 PM  Back Pack Buddies
4 PM  Adult Ed New Testament Study Group |
| 7:30 PM  Shabbat Service |
| **Parashat Shemot**
9 AM  Religious School
9:30 AM  Madrichim Seminar
11:30 AM  Boker Tov Service
12:15 PM  Hebrew School Religious School Committee |
| 3 PM  Back Pack Buddies
4 PM  Adult Ed New Testament Study Group |
| 7:30 PM  Shabbat Service |
| **Parashat Shemot**
9 AM  Religious School
9:30 AM  Madrichim Seminar
11:30 AM  Boker Tov Service
12:15 PM  Hebrew School Religious School Committee |
| 3 PM  Back Pack Buddies
4 PM  Adult Ed New Testament Study Group |
| 7:30 PM  Shabbat Service |

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**Potluck Dinner –SAVE THE DATE!!!!!**
Mark your calendar for the annual CBY Potluck Dinner on Friday, February 8, 2019. Services will be at 6 PM followed by our extravaganza buffet prepared by our own congregation members. Think about your best recipe choice and watch for details about registration. ★
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<thead>
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<th>Date</th>
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<td>2</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Judaica Shop Open</td>
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<td>Set up for the Board Meeting</td>
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<td>The Hunger Coalition</td>
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<td>Women’s Study Group</td>
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<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>TNT SAC Forum ADL</td>
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<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Lunch &amp; Learn</td>
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<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>Staff Meeting</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>No Religious School-Winter Break</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
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<td>Dine-Together TBD</td>
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<td>Staff Meeting</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Toray Study with SC Brodsky</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Shabbat Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>OFFICE CLOSED-MLK, JR DAY</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>Fund Raising Committee</td>
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<td>Anti-Defamation League Speaker</td>
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<td>Basketball in Charleston</td>
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<td>Shabbat Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>18</td>
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<td>Family Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Intro to Judaism</td>
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**Night of 100 Menorahs**

Join us

**December 7**

**Night of 100 Menorah Service**

**6:00 PM**

Bring your Menorah and your family
There are many mysteries in the customs and rituals of Judaism and people often ask me questions about why we practice rituals and holidays the way we do. For example someone recently asked me, “Rabbi, why do we light thirty-six candles on Hanukkah?” Remember, we count up the candles we use in a box and we light one candle on the first night and increase it each night for eight days. We end up lighting thirty-six. Does Judaism tell us if there is a special hidden interpretation for this number?

As one can expect there is always more than one response for the reasons we practice the customs. Usually those responses deal with matters of Jewish history and spirituality. So thirty-six candles was meant, according to the rabbis, to demonstrate the thirty-six tractates of the Talmud.

Another interpretation from ancient times was that before the times of Hanukkah (165 BCE), the religious leadership of the Israelite religion formed an assembly of leaders who would make laws for Jewish society and be the court system of the Jewish nation. The name of this group was called the Sanhedrin, and they were similar to the main legislative body of civil and religious law. In other words the Sanhedrin were similar to the model of the Supreme Court. In order for them to have a majority to make legal decisions, they needed thirty-six for a majority which is another allusion to the Hanukkah lights. The idea here is to remind us that we are keeping alive the body and soul of the Jewish people which are its teachings and how they are used to guide Jewish life in every generation.

Another question people ask me is “Where in the Torah is the holiday of Hanukkah mentioned?” The answer is that Hanukkah is not discussed directly in the Torah or the entire Hebrew Bible. The author of the Book of Maccabees wrote the story after the Hasmonean Kingdom of Judah Maccabee was restored following their defeat of the Greeks. The Hebrew text of the original text was lost long ago. The first translation was in Greek, and that is how we have this book today, but it was not included in the Biblical canon of Judaism. Yet, the first Jewish Greek translation of the Bible was called the Septuagint and included the two Books of the Maccabees. So why didn’t the Jewish scholars long ago include the Books of the Maccabees in the Hebrew Bible? One answer may speak to the politics of the day. Some scholars contend that when the rabbis were finalizing the final text of the Bible during the Roman occupation of the Land of Judea, they resisted including these books because they were nervous that the Romans would not like Jews including books which talked about revolution against the Greeks. They might stir the population to rebel against their Roman rulers.

In addition, when the Septuagint became the officially recognized Bible of the early Christian church, the Rabbis resisted adopting this version of the Bible. One can see back then the internal and external struggle the Jewish people had under the rule of an occupation force. Yes, centuries later the rabbis would popularize the miracle and the story Maccabees as a symbol of Jewish pride and dedication to the preservation of our faith. Even today we still struggle with that extra sensitivity towards balancing our love of country and our pride for being from a people that fought for their freedoms. Is there any wonder why the early Zionists of the 19th and 20th centuries embraced and elevated Hanukkah to the major holiday it is today?

History often teaches us about our own times and provides us with a mirror to reflect and learn from the past. May this year’s Hanukkah celebration remind us of the fight for freedom, combining the mysteries of many layers of interpretation for why we practice Hanukkah customs and why we are always mediating our national and religious identities.

Hag Hanukkah Sameah.

Have a Happy and Joyous Hanukkah.

Rabbi Brad L. Bloom M.S.W., DD

Care Committee – Carol Carty & Janice Fradkin, Co-chairs

“The halls were alive with the sound of music” as Student Cantor Olivia Brodsky visited the residents of the Preston Health Center during her October weekend at CBY. As part of her pastoral care training, SC Brodsky chatted with the ladies and shared her beautiful gift in singing musical theater and Hebrew songs to welcome in Shabbat. From the smiles on their faces, we know Longfellow was right: “Music is the universal language of mankind.” ♫
Message from the President—Judy Bluestone

This month is one of joy for our Lowcountry Jewish community. Chanukah, our eight day celebration of the miracle of Chanukah and of the religious freedom that Maccabees sought under the tyranny of Antiochus, is ushered in by our traditional candle lighting at Crave Restaurant. Many thanks to our Dine Together chairs, Maury Fradkin and Neil Hilsen, and our host, K’fir Gispan, for arranging this event. We look forward to the Night of 100 Menorahs at CBY on December 7 at 6 pm. It is a perfect time for CBY families of all ages to celebrate together.

The events of this past month, marked by the horrific events at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh and the defeat of an anti-Semitic candidate for Hilton Head mayor, remind us again of how fortunate we are to have our congregation and Rabbi Bloom available to help us channel our defiance and grief in constructive ways. Kudos to Rabbi Bloom for putting together a community service at CBY on October 28 so that we could grieve together. The overflowing crowd including many from the general community attested to the intensity of disbelief, anger, and the deep sorrow felt by our non-member friends. We are grateful, too, for the wisdom and vision of our past and present boards who have responded to the safety needs of our congregants from the youngest to oldest.

We continually evaluate our security and are working under the leadership of Jeremy Press to upgrade our security systems and protocols. Our goal is to make CBY as secure as possible within the boundaries of “reasonable”. According to Jeremy, our present systems are effective but require some updating. Jeremy’s committee, working with our security company and local Fire and Law Enforcement professionals, is focused on improving CBY’s security protocols - fire and active shooter evacuations. Our professional guards, Mr. Roosevelt Sanders and Mr. Lenny Timmons, watch over us during services, religious school, and CBY special events open to the public. Both guards have been authorized as part of a developing board policy on security to do personal and polite searches of our attendees when there is a question. Both men are getting to know us but please do not be offended as we are looking out for your safety. A second policy passed by the Board is that CBY is a gun free zone. Only our paid security professionals are authorized to carry guns into the synagogue.

In the next two months we will be offering a workshop on what to do in an active shooter situation. We need to be prepared. And we also know that as Jews, we are united. Wrote Mark Wilf, Chair of the Board of the Jewish Federations of North America, “In the face of hatred and violence, Jewish communities come together with others from around the world and say: No, you will not defeat us. We are stronger because we are united.” The moving Kristallnacht program chaired by Janice Fradkin, which featured the amazing Mary Green singers, reminded us that the most educated and well positioned Jews can be blindsided by when hatred and anti-Semitism fuel public policy.

And, writing of unity, we are pleased to announce that Unity of Hilton Head will be renting space from us for their weekly Sunday worship services beginning in January. Through the years, CBY has welcomed other congregations to our building: Church Without Walls and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Please welcome the members if and when you are in the building on Sunday morning.

I wish you and your families a satisfying and safe 2019!!!

Judy

Membership Committee—
Candy Solomon & Sue Gostanian, Co-chairs

Our Back to Shul event, co-chaired by Janet and Mike Weingarten, was a huge success. Members and prospective members learned about the committees that CBY offers and enjoyed making new friends and snacking on treats. The Kugel Kookoff Kontest was won by Carol Carty.

We are in the midst of planning for our off-island Shabbat service to be held at St. Andrews Methodist Church satellite building in Bluffton. This will be a service filled with singing, music, and activities for the families.

Please give a warm CBY welcome to our newest families:
★ Barry Lederman and Suzanna Eibuszyc (Resident family),
★ Samuel and Jill Bronsky (Affiliate family),
★ April Adelson (Resident single), and
★ Tina Rosen (Resident single). ★
It is hard to believe that December is here already! Chanukah is around the corner. As always, Sisterhood has been busy.

We had a table at the Back to Shul program, drumming up interest and volunteers for our many activities. Our membership chairs organized an Appreciation Lunch for our Sisters! Hot soup, salad, homemade bread and desserts were perfect for the chilly fall day. The guest speaker, Laura Lee Rose from the Clemson Extension Program was very interesting. She provided valuable information on native plants, deer resistant plants and plants to support bees, butterflies and bird life. Janice Fradkin was the lucky winner of a handmade Helen Hauer afghan! Thank you to all who helped make this a lovely event.

Sisterhood also worked with the Social Action Committee to highlight the most vulnerable people in our community, with speakers from Hopeful Horizons and Legal Volunteers of the Low country. Thanks to Teresa Bedo and Marcie Frisch for organizing this enlightening program.

As we look ahead to December and the Festival of Lights, I feel so blessed to be working alongside warm, smart, capable women, my Sisters, who are always there to make things happen!

Now, for our December Jewish Woman of Valor:

Elena Kagan is an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, nominated by President Barack Obama on May 10, 2010 and confirmed by the United States Senate on August 5, 2010. She is the fourth woman to serve as a Supreme Court Justice. She was born and raised in New York City. She attended Princeton University, Worcester College, Oxford and Harvard Law School. Her rise to the Supreme Court was studded with a glowing list of credentials in both education, as Dean of Harvard Law School and in government as Solicitor General and the Supreme Court. Her opinions were valuable, writing majority opinions and dissents. Elena Kagan truly raised the “Bar” (pun intended!) for Jewish Women.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Lisa G Memorial Fund

To Cathy and Steve Kite from Susan and Mark Britanisky offering condolences on the passing of Dolores Kite, Steve’s mother.

CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES

We would like to thank all of you who have provided generously for onegs on Shabbat. As you know, the congregation meets after services to share goodies and enjoy the beginning of Shabbat together. One might volunteer for an oneg to commemorate an occasion or note a mitzvah.

Currently, we are looking for members to host onegs from the beginning of January 2019 to the end of May 2019. Please contact either Carol Carty at 609-313-9036, or Phyllis Napoli at 404-314-8455, to arrange a date. At that time, we can discuss what type of service you would like to provide for. For example, it could be for a 6 PM Kabbalat or a 7:30 PM regular service.

Thank you for considering volunteering.

BOOK GROUP

Recently, we had an interesting and enlightening discussion on “Zero to Sixty and Then Some” by CBY member David Schuman. Thank you to those who attended.

Our voting determined that we will read “Beneath a Scarlet Sky” by Mark Sullivan, “The Immortalists” by Chloe Benjamin, and “The Last Watchman of Old Cairo” by Michael David Lukas. We can include the other books on the list of potential books for next year.

Our next Book Group meeting is on Thursday December 13th at Moss Creek. Ellen Jenner will lead us in a discussion of “Beneath a Scarlet Sky”.

Please let me know if you would like to lead the discussions on “The Immortalists” and “The Last Watchman of Old Cairo”. Contact Rita Suntup by email.

ROVING REPORTER

Marida Bruggeman came up for air after her daughter, Ella’s, Bat Mitzvah and was willing to share her thoughts with this reporter.

Question: What is the best parenting advice you have ever received?

Marida: After my first child was born, an aunt told me, “Remember, it’s all a phase, the good stuff and the bad stuff. So, be sure to slow down and enjoy the good stuff.” Related to that sage advice, Marida remarked that she is learning how important it is to stop everything she is doing and listen when her daughter is trying to tell her something. If she misses those moments, she may hear less and less.

Question: Given today’s political and social climate, what do you worry about for the children?

Marida: There’s a lot I worry about! There seems to be a lack of personal responsibility and blaming others in this culture. I want to teach my children to take personal responsibility. Internalize that….If they can do that, it gives them hope. They will understand that they have choices about how to respond and how to act.

Question: Do you have a favorite word?

Marida: I do. It’s “enough.” It’s my mantra that I try to live by. It’s a reminder not to overcomplicate things. It’s a reminder to be present and enjoy the moment.

Tina Harbison, President
M: Mama
Q: A least favorite word?
M: “Mama!!!”
Q: What would a perfect Sunday look like?
M: I would sleep in until 7:00. Sweatpants and coffee. Music on the speakers. The kids and I would make pancakes in the kitchen. Then, maybe, go to the park. They could run around and I could read a book.
Thank you, Marida.
Fundraising—Dave Solomon, Chair

A reminder as we approach the holiday season please make sure you update your Publix registration so our religious school receives the benefit of your purchases. The same holds true for the Amazon, Kroger and other programs in which CBY participates. It benefits our kids, grandchildren and CBY.

Watch for forthcoming information regarding our Gala and Silent Auction May 18 entitled “CELEBRATION 10”. Not only will this be a silent and live auction at CBY, we are going to have an online auction promoting Hilton Head as a vacation mecca. Our online auction is going to offer golf packages, high end art and jewelry, weekend vacation stays, and travel to foreign lands. We can use your help in procuring or providing auction items or directing the auction team to merchants you know who can help us make this a successful event. For more information contact Howard Rothchild (843-715-5110), Neil Hilsen (687-642-7247), or Alan Meiselman (516-652-8915) for more information.

Outreach—Marcia Frezza & Rebecca Mastrorocco, Co-chairs

The Outreach committee is hosting a Grandparents Workshop on Sunday, Jan. 27 at 12:30 PM in the CBY social hall. The workshop will include LUNCH and a DISCUSSION about the challenges you face grandparenting children who are being brought up in interfaith families.

If you are in an interfaith marriage or have children or grandchildren in interfaith relationships, the workshop will explore your questions, such as, “How do I raise the issue of celebrations for Jewish holidays? What is my role as a Jewish grandparent? How do I discuss Judaism with my grandchildren and/or children?”

The event is FREE and limited to the first 50 CBY members that RSVP to Rebecca Mastrorocco or Marcia Frezza by email.

Adult Education – Barbara Slagowitz, Chair

Introduction to the New Testament


Upcoming Events:

- Lunch and learn January 16 at 12 PM at CBY. We will be discussing the book “Sons and Soldiers: The Untold Story of the Jews Who Escaped the Nazis and Returned to Fight with the US Army to Fight Hitler.” Bring your lunch; drinks and sweets will be provided. Eliot Siegel will facilitate the discussion.
- “A Tribute to Neil Simon” Film Festival–During the month of February on Thursday evenings we will be showing the following Neil Simon films: “Biloxi Blues”, “Brighton Beach Memoirs”, and “Lost in Yonkers.” Details to follow.
- Introduction to Judaism–Rabbi Bloom will teach this three-part class starting January 31 and continuing February 7 and February 14. This class is open to the public and is appropriate for anyone wanting a better understanding of Judaism, e.g., grandparents of Jewish children. These classes will be from 4-5:30 PM at CBY. Please encourage anyone who might be interested to attend. RSVP by email to Michele at bethyam@aol.com.
- Also note that Rabbi Bloom is available for adult B’nai Mitzvah and conversion classes.

Our next meeting will be January 3 at 3:30 PM. We would welcome new members.
Social Action Committee – Janet Weingarten, Chair

Thoughts Following the Tree of Life Shooting:

“Some say that this is not the time to get political. This is precisely the time to get political. Because we are awake, because the world is awake and listening and in our 24 hour news cycle, it is only a matter of time before people move on. We cannot just move on, but everyone else will. How do we keep the world awake?

Jews will always be targeted. African-Americans will always be targeted. People in the LGBTQ community will always be targeted. Muslims will always be targeted. Immigrants and refugees will always fear deportation. We cannot just collapse into mourning and moving on without making the moment we have to be heard count. We need to stand up to hate speech and hateful acts against all people, not just my people—all people.

We must use our platform to stand united with our brothers and sisters in all communities that are targeted for being “other”. We must let our leaders know that we will not tolerate their turning a blind eye to the suffering of any American. We must let our leaders know that we demand that they stand up against anything that would harm the Americans they swore to protect. We must let our leaders know that hateful rhetoric, that hate crimes have no place in the land of the free. We must let our leaders know that any time anyone is hurt, it hurts us all.

It is time to stand up to white supremacy. It is time to stand up to anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. It is time to stand up to the patriarchy that oppresses women. It is time to address a living wage and education for all. It is time to protect the environment from reaching the point of no return. It is time to stand up to the gun-obsessed, all too powerful NRA. It is time to declare over and over that love is love is love. While our hearts are bursting open. Now.

Yes, now IS the precisely time to get political. We must be one United States. We must confront the truth of who we are, who we have always been and who we have inevitably become. We must lift up the carpet we have been pushing things under and remove the barriers to our broken hearts. We must step out into the light. And embrace our brothers and sisters who wear Mogen Davids. To our brothers and sisters who pray to Allah. To our brothers and sisters who pray each day that their black and brown boys are not the next ones gunned down. To our brothers and sisters who have to work three jobs and take two busses to get there. To our brothers and sisters who want to be free to love whomever they choose. To our brothers and sisters who crossed borders to find refuge and now cower in fear that they will be sent back into the hell they hoped to escape. To all of our children - you are ALL our children.

Now is the time. We must not focus only on our pain, but on our shared pain. On Saturday, our community was targeted. Who will be next? If I am not for myself, who am I? If I am not for others, what am I? If not now, when?”

- Sara Stock Mayo

Thank you to Teresa Bedo and Marcie Frisch for chairing the informative program “Helping the Most Vulnerable”, a program presented by Hopeful Haven and Lowcountry Legal Volunteers. The program was sponsored by SAC and Sisterhood.

Thank you to Janice Fradkin for chairing our Coat Drive to benefit the clients of Deep Well and Bluffton Self Help during the winter months.

Many of you might wonder how your generous donations to the Tzedakah fund are used. Thanks to many of you, CBY has sent checks to Tree of Life Synagogue, to charities in California to aid fire victims made homeless, to the charity Nechama, a Jewish Response to Disaster, to aid the latest victims of hurricanes in Florida and North Carolina, to Deep Well and Bluffton Self Help for Thanksgiving dinners for the hungry, and to Family Promise for baby supplies for homeless families that they house. The generosity and caring of our congregation is overwhelming.

TEMPLE TIDINGS

Save The Date

- Chanukah Public Library Display
  December 2, 2018:
  Blood Drive

- December 18, 2018:
  Congregation Volunteer Day
  (benefitting Deep Well and Bluffton Self Help)

- January 19, 2019:
  MLK Shabbat Celebration

- April 4, 2019:
  ADL Presentation
**Ritual Committee—David Kurjan, Chair**

**Chanukah Facts**

The sages taught: On the 25th of Kislev, the days of Chanukah are eight. One may not eulogize on them, and one may not fast on them. This is because when the Greeks entered the Sanctuary, they defiled all the oils that were in the Sanctuary. When the Chasmonean monarchy overcame them and emerged victorious over them, they searched and found only one small jar of oil that remained with the seal of the High Priest. There was sufficient oil there to light the candelabrum for only one day. A miracle occurred, and they lit the candelabrum from it for eight days. (Look at it this way. Your cellphone is at 10% but it still works 8 days later.) The next year, the sages instituted those days and made them holidays with the recitation of Hallel and prayers of thanksgiving.

The Chanukah candles must burn after night falls, since their purpose is to bring light into darkness. But they need to be lit early enough that someone will be around to see them. The lights need to be seen so they can serve their function of reminding others of God’s great miracle.

Chanukah is the only Jewish holiday not mentioned in all the books of the Bible. That’s because the canon was sealed by the Men of the Great Assembly, who flourished two centuries before the Chanukah miracle. Nor does it have a tractate in the Talmud that discusses its observances. Instead, it gets a by-the-way mention in Tractate Shabbat. In the context of discussing Shabbat candles, the Chanukah candles (and by extension, the Chanukah holiday) get their time in the Talmudic sun.

Today, there is a widespread custom to enjoy potato latkes on Chanukah, since the oil they are fried in reminds us of the miracle of the flames on the Temple menorah burning for eight days. But there is an older custom to eat cheese pancakes on Chanukah, which is reminiscent of the dairy (and intoxicating) meal that Judith fed the Greek general before she decapitated him in his sleep, saving her village. Apparently, cheese latkes morphed into potato latkes (potatoes were unknown in the Old World until the late 16th century), and a new custom was born.

In the days of the Talmud, there were two major academies of learning: Hillel and Shammai. The House of Hillel taught that every night of Chanukah we add another candle—as we do today. The House of Shammai, however, maintained that we begin with eight lights on the first night and light one less flame every night, ending Chanukah with a single flame.

We sometimes hear of Greeks, Syrians or even Hellenists in the Chanukah story. So who exactly were the intruders who were expelled by the Maccabees? All of the above! After the death of Alexander the Great, his empire was broken up: the Seleucid Greek Empire was based in Syria, and the Ptolemaic Empire had its base in Alexandria, Egypt. The soldiers stationed in Judea belonged to the Syrian Greeks. And who are the Hellenists and the Yevanim? The very same people: Hella is the Greek word for Greece (Yavan in Hebrew).

In December of 1993, Space Shuttle Endeavour was sent into space to service the Hubble Space Telescope. One of the astronauts to perform a spacewalk to repair the telescope was Jeffrey Hoffman. Knowing that he would be stuck in space over Chanukah, Hoffman made sure to bring along a dreidel and a traveling menorah so that he’d be able to celebrate (because of lack of gravity and safety concerns, there was no way to light candles). Then, via live satellite communication, he showed his Chanukah supplies, gave his dreidel a twirl in the air, and wished Jews everywhere a happy Chanukah.

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**Men’s Club—Dave Solomon, President**

The Men’s Club golf tournament was cancelled due to inclement weather. The tournament is being rescheduled at Oldfield Golf Club on March 18. More detail will follow. For additional information please call Steve Burstein (843-342-5577), Nelson Adelman (687-488-7559) or Dave Solomon (248-762-1399).

Men’s Club is planning a basketball adventure to Charleston January 12 to see the College of Charleston play the Delaware Fightin’ Blue Hens. Tickets will be in the $10 price range. Wives and significant others are invited to go to the game or spend an afternoon shopping in Charleston.

If you are interested please contact Alan Meiselman 516-652-8915 for additional details.
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO HAVE FRIENDS

The title of this article is the response that a teenager gave 30 years ago to the question, "What's the most important thing?"

In a teenager's world, friends are the most important thing. In a Jewish congregation, the most important things are the services, the Rabbi, the preservation and strengthening of our Jewish religion, and maintenance of our Congregation. At Beth Yam we have active religious and cultural programs, well attended weekly services, a religious school, a fully engaged and caring Rabbi, and many other outstanding activities. Our staff is helpful and friendly, and overall the Synagogue works well, BUT the revenue side takes effort.

At CBY, the two largest sources of revenue are dues, followed by the Friends Campaign. Then there are smaller fundraising events which are generally a mix of work, fun, and even a little fundraising.

The Friends Campaign officially starts after the High Holy Days and continues until the end of the CBY fiscal year, June 30. We are pleased to announce that with 69 gifts to date, we have achieved 41% of this year’s goal of $82,000. We believe that we will be able to achieve this year's Friends goal if all members will consider supporting this year’s campaign. A gift, no matter the amount, demonstrates the strong support needed to accomplish all that the congregation does in a given year.

Except for a slight blip last year, the Friends Campaign has increased its results each successive year for the last several years. We know some of the increase is due to the very healthy economy, but some is also due to the realization that CBY is the healthy foundation of Jewish life in the Lowcountry.

We are requesting that each of you consider at least a 10% increase in your Friends donation for the 2018-2019 campaign.

If you have an IRA and are over 70 1/2, there can be a significant tax savings by donating directly from your IRA, instead donating from your non-IRA funds and taking the charitable deduction. It’s really worth considering.

Unlike some campaigns we don't ask that you give early and often, just that you give early. ✡️
CUTE, BRIGHT GUEST BATHROOM REMODEL...

After our experiences with several other contractors, we prefer to use Group 4 Builders as we continue to renovate our home.

Every remodeling project has its unforeseen surprises! Jack and his crew are open, honest, and creative in finding work-arounds for unexpected challenges! Jack is committed to ensuring that his customers are happy with the finished project. He notices the little things, and is always willing to re-do something that didn’t come out just right, even if they did exactly what you asked for, but you changed your mind once you saw it! Jack’s pricing methodology is fair and straightforward; never any surprises there! We will continue using Jack for all future work to upgrade and maintain our home.

Robin and Alan Krumholz

NEW, MODERN FAUCET, COUNTER TOP VANITY AND TILED SHOWER...

GROUP 4 BUILDERS, LLC 843-422-6925 jack1899resnick@gmail.com
## 2018/2019 Board of Directors

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**Rabbi Brad L. Bloom**

Sisterhood President, Randy Kurjan
Men's Club President, Dave Solomon