Heartfelt thanks to our friends at the Sippin Cow Café and Grill in Bluffton for hosting our Chanukah First Night Candle Lighting and providing us with delicious latkes, sufganiyot, and hot cider in a dry setting.

Night of 100 Menorot
Shabbat Family Service at Congregation Beth Yam
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<th>SUN</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, January 12</strong>&lt;br&gt;Spaghetti Dinner&lt;br&gt;12:00-5:00 PM at CBY</td>
<td>1 New Year's Day&lt;br&gt;OFFICE CLOSED</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 Candle Lighting 5:23 PM</td>
<td>4 Parashat Vayigash</td>
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<td>5 9 AM Sanctuary Reserved</td>
<td>6 10 AM Ritual Committee&lt;br&gt;3:30 PM Set up for the Executive Committee&lt;br&gt;4 PM Executive Committee</td>
<td>7 10 AM Communications Meeting&lt;br&gt;1 PM Judaica Shop Open&lt;br&gt;3 PM Endowment Trustees&lt;br&gt;4 PM Staff Meeting&lt;br&gt;5 PM Social Hall Reserved&lt;br&gt;7 PM CBY Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>8 9 AM Social Hall B Reserved&lt;br&gt;3 PM The Hunger Coalition</td>
<td>9 Parashat Vayechi&lt;br&gt;9 AM Social Hall B Reserved&lt;br&gt;4 PM Fund Raising Committee</td>
<td>10 6 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service</td>
<td>11 Parashat Vayechi</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 9 AM Religious School Sanctuary Reserved&lt;br&gt;9:30 AM Religious School Committee Meeting&lt;br&gt;10 AM Judaica Shop Open&lt;br&gt;11:30 AM Boker Tov Service&lt;br&gt;12 PM Lishmah Seminar-Talmud Torah: &quot;Teach them to your children&quot;-Role of education for parents and students-PARENTS should attend this session with child&lt;br&gt;Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser&lt;br&gt;12:15 PM Hebrew School</td>
<td>13 3:30 PM Set up for the Board Meeting&lt;br&gt;4:30 PM Board Meeting</td>
<td>14 6 PM Dine Together</td>
<td>15 12 PM Lunch &amp; Leam Book&lt;br&gt;1 PM Judaica Shop Open&lt;br&gt;4 PM Staff Meeting&lt;br&gt;5 PM Social Hall Reserved&lt;br&gt;7 PM CBY Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>16 9 AM Social Hall B Reserved&lt;br&gt;Finance Committee&lt;br&gt;1 PM Membership Committee&lt;br&gt;3 PM Back Pack Buddies</td>
<td>17 7:30 PM Shabbat Service Honoring MLK Jr with CBY Choir</td>
<td>18 9:30 AM Hot Topic Shabbat</td>
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<td>19 9 AM Sanctuary Reserved</td>
<td>20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day&lt;br&gt;OFFICE CLOSED</td>
<td>21 1 PM Judaica Shop Open&lt;br&gt;1:30 PM Sisterhood Board&lt;br&gt;4 PM Staff Meeting&lt;br&gt;5 PM Social Hall Reserved</td>
<td>22 1 PM Judaica Shop Open&lt;br&gt;1:30 PM Sisterhood Board&lt;br&gt;4 PM Staff Meeting&lt;br&gt;5 PM Social Hall Reserved</td>
<td>23 9 AM Social Hall B Reserved&lt;br&gt;12:30 PM Sisterhood Book Club</td>
<td>24 6:30 PM Family Shabbat Service</td>
<td>25 Parashat Shemot&lt;br&gt;Rosh Chodesh Tevet</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 9 AM Sanctuary Reserved&lt;br&gt;9:30 AM Parent B'nai Mitzvah Class-All systems go! The Final Preparations!</td>
<td>27 Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat&lt;br&gt;3:30 PM Adult Ed Meeting</td>
<td>28 1 PM Judaica Shop Open&lt;br&gt;4 PM Staff Meeting&lt;br&gt;5 PM Social Hall Reserved&lt;br&gt;7 PM CBY Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>29 9 AM Social Hall B Reserved</td>
<td>30 Candle Lighting 5:49 PM</td>
<td>31 7:30 PM Shabbat Service with Student Cantor Olivia Brodsky</td>
<td>25 Parashat Bo</td>
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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](http://www.islandpacket.com/living/religion/faith-in-action/) and sharing it with friends and family.

*I always welcome your thoughts and comments. . . Rabbi Bloom*
**SAVE THE DATE FOR FEBRUARY 2020**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Torah Study</td>
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<td>Madrichim Seminar</td>
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<td>Lishmah Seminar-L’chaim: To Life- Accepting death and affirming life-ritual practices in the life cycle</td>
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<td>Dine Together</td>
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<td>Shabbat Service-Care Committee</td>
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<td>Fund Raising Committee</td>
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<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Kabbalat Shabbat Service with CBY Choir</td>
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<td>Membership Committee</td>
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<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Family Shabbat: 10 Commandments</td>
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<td>22</td>
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<td>Hot Topic Shabbat - Abortion &amp; reproductive rights (service)</td>
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<td>23</td>
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<td>Parent Brunch &amp; Learn - Tikkun Olam : Repairing the World</td>
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<td>Lev Simcha Shabbat Service @ CBY with Student Cantor Olivia Brodsky</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Torah Study</td>
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**TEMPLE TIDINGS**

Services will be at 6 PM followed by our extravaganza buffet prepared by our own congregation members.

Think about your best recipe choice and make your reservations online by [CLICKING HERE](#) by Friday Feb. 7, 2020.
Rabbi’s Message

When we greet each other on Rosh Hashanah we say “L’shana Tova Tikatevu v’Tikatemu”, which means “May you be written and sealed in the book of life.” We inherently understand the context of what that phrase means in our High Holy Days. Yes, it is a greeting of expressing our best to another person. There is also an implicit hope that the upcoming year brings the person blessings for good health and fulfillment. There is also an underlying meaning that relates to the belief that self-reflection and God’s watchful eye is upon us, and the way we conduct ourselves is also critical for our wellbeing too. These beliefs, that is, the idea that God will inscribe and seal us in the Book of Life, are part of the spiritual and moral fabric belonging to the Days of Awe season.

Now we come to the secular New Year when we say to our neighbors and family, “Our best wishes for a Happy New Year.” As Americans we listen to time honored songs like “Auld Lang Syne”, which comes from a Scottish poem written by the famous poet Robert Burns, which literally means idiomatically “long, long ago or for the sake of old times.” The basic idea behind the poem is that we should remember the past and especially long time friendships. Here the power of memory should bring us to a better place and possibly reconciliation with those we may have grown distant from over the years. I’d like to imagine this was Burn’s way of interpreting teshuvah in the Scottish culture.

Inside American culture we also sing on New Year’s Eve that song made famous by Louis Armstrong, “What a Wonderful World.” Actually, the song was written by Bob Thiele and George David Weiss and first recorded by Louis Armstrong in 1967. Weiss was reported to have said that he wrote the song especially for Armstrong because of his ability to bring people together from all races. Remember the times back in 1967, when America was in the midst of the Civil Rights movement and what a success that song was, and it became part of American culture and is sung often at New Year’s Eve events.

Here we have two songs from radically different times and cultures, yet, both have set the tone and the spirit of what the secular New Year has become in American life. It is supposed to be a time for coming together and putting aside the bitterness and the sadness of life and looking forward to hope in a better future.

I think we need both songs even more this year as we review the past year and the events that are coming forward in our society in 2020. Clearly, we have our own personal life issues and possibly some frayed relationships with family and friends. Would this not be as good a time as any to reach out and make shalom? Would this time be just right to look at healing friendships that are strained, especially due to the political life in our nation these days? There are many other issues that America is dealing with both here and abroad which evoke powerful emotions, and, if we do not address them in the spirit of reconciliation, then we risk a year of increased division in our democracy. Whether it is the Jewish message at the High Holy Days or the songs that stir us in our American culture, New Year’s at 2020 gives us a second chance to make a difference in our lives and in the lives of those we know and love.

So, how about we all take a moment out and think about the opportunities we have to reconcile and not lose hope in a better future for all of us. We do not deny or ignore the problems we have as individuals or as a nation. At the same time let us give our best effort to make the peace and move forward to find the best in ourselves and in our community as well as in our nation.

On behalf of Linda and myself have a Happy New Year and Shana Tova.

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

Membership Committee —
Candy Solomon & Janice Fradkin, Co-chairs

The Membership committee closed out 2019 with several exciting events and is working hard on others planned for the coming months!

The final off-island Lev Simcha service of the year was held on December 20, in Bluffton. Held just two days before the beginning of Chanukah, the service was full of beautiful music and fun family activities and was an enjoyable evening for all!

And to celebrate the holiday, a new tradition has begun! On the first night of Chanukah, CBY families, friends, and community members gathered to light the first candle on our beautiful new outdoor travelling menorah at Sippin Cow in Old Town Bluffton. What a night: lots of music, Israeli folk dancing, and Chanukah treats—all under the light of this important new piece in our congregation’s Judaica collection.

Save the date and reserve your spot! Our annual Pot Luck dinner—always delicious and always popular—will be held this year on Friday, February 14, at 7 PM following Kabbalat services at 6 PM at CBY. Brisket and beverages provided; your only cost is a dish to share! Go online CLICK HERE to make your reservation NOW, and let us know what you will be bringing. The deadline is Friday, February 7, or until all seats are filled. Slots fill up quickly; don’t be closed out! Reserve your place NOW. Questions? Call chair Gay Birnbaum at 843-338-9644.

Happy New Year. With all the varied spiritual, educational, and social programming that CBY has to offer, we look forward to seeing all of you in the months ahead! ✭
TEMPLE TIDINGS

Happy New Year
Everyone!!!
And happy 2020!

As Rabbi Boom reported from chilly Chicago, the location of the URJ biennial, “sacred diversity” is the new theme for the Reform Movement. We are being challenged to expand our “Big Tent”. According to Rabbi Rick Jacobs, the president of URJ, our synagogues need to be expansive and inclusive. He encourages us to reach out to every variety of Jew—Jews of color, Jews of fluid sexual identity, Jews in interfaith and same sex marriages and relationships, Jews with disabilities, and Jews who find organized Jewish religion meaningless to them. Rabbi Jacobs states that the diminished appeal of organized religion among the younger cohort of Jews compels us to think differently if we are to grow. In his opinion, Reform Judaism is the perfect vehicle to attract young Jews who are not drawn to any Jewish association. The face of the Jewish community has changed dramatically in the last fifty years. While Hilton Head is a small community there are many ways for us to respond to his charge.

Additionally, Rabbi Jacobs encourages us to assess our attitudes toward race. He said that it’s not enough for us to deny that we are racists, but we should work toward becoming anti-racist. What does it mean to be anti-racist? It means that we “should take an active part to eliminate racism in our society.” As Dr. King told us in the wake of the Birmingham church bombing: “We must be concerned not merely about who murdered those four young girls but about the system, the way of life, the philosophy which produced the murderer.” Recent attacks on Jews in our country should make us even more mindful of hatred toward and distrust of “the other.”

The MLK Weekend beginning on Thursday, January 16, and ending with the MLK March on Monday, January 19, can be the start of necessary dialogue between the Black community of Hilton Head and CBY. Our MLK Shabbat on Friday, January 17, can be a kick-off to a concerted effort by our communities for dialogue and honest sharing of mutual concerns and interests. Black Jewish relations in Hilton Head cannot be just the annual coming together on MLK weekend. This year the MLK Shabbat at CBY will feature two black church choirs, the CBY Shabbat choir, Miss B., Rev. Dr. Jon Black of Campbell AME and Pastor Louis Johnson of Central Oak Grove Baptist Church will join Rabbi Bloom on the bimah.

Some highlights from Chanukah 2019 celebrations: three cheers for the Care Committee Chanukah party for seniors on December 17, and the menorah lighting at Sippin Cow in Bluffton was a terrific event, a first for CBY. Families of all ages gathered around the new portable menorah designed by Linda Bloom, fabricated by our good friend Mike Clancy, and made possible by the Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund. The beautiful menorah was lit each successive night of Chanukah at CBY. Our annual Night of 100 Menorahs was a lovely festive evening for our extended CBY family. Many thanks to the Ritual Committee, especially its chair David Kurjan, who has passed his gavel to newly appointed chair Jaquey Schmid. I thank David and the members of the Ritual Committee for their commitment to making certain that our Shabbat services proceed smoothly 52 weeks a year plus our many religious holiday observances. Members include Randy Kurjan, Alon Krumholz, Jaquey Schmid, Janet Kelley, Dave Solomon, Phil Davidson, Maury Fradkin and Sheila and Walt Margeson. Please note that our substitute service leaders are all Ritual Committee members.

ITEMS TO NOTE:
The Nominating Committee, chaired by Ruth Hilsen, will begin its work this month. I encourage anyone with interest in being considered for the board to let Ruth know.

The Board has passed a policy, recommended by the Disabilities Subcommittee of SAC, which will allow service animals in the synagogue.

The Board is interviewing companies to service our resumption of a recycling program. CBY is committed to following this policy which is a Biblical imperative.

Don’t forget to sign up for the Religious School spaghetti dinner on Sunday, January 12, and bring your friends.

B’shalom,
Judy

December Board Abstract

We are planning to resume recycling after January 1, 2020.
Yahrzeit reminder letters will be sent to all memorial plaque holders, both members and non-members.
The board endorsed a potential year-long celebration of CBY’s 40th anniversary 2020-2021.
The board approved the Disabilities subcommittee policy allowing service animals in the synagogue.

The Friends Campaign has raised over $45,000 from 67 donors.
The Nominating Committee chaired by Ruth Hilsen has been appointed and will begin working this month.
The Long Range Planning Committee is hard at work on revised mission and vision statements.
A Happy and Healthy New Year to all! I trust that you all had a wonderful Chanukah, counting all of our Blessings as we counted and kindled our candles each night. To each of our interfaith members, I hope your Christmas was merry and bright! May each and every one of us be a light that kindles others.

I am so thankful and proud to be part of a congregation that counts women as equal voices. A few weeks ago I was asked to stand in for Rabbi Bloom at a Kabbalat Shabbat Service, while he was at the URJ Biennial Convention in Chicago. In my Drash, I spoke about Dinah, the daughter of Jacob, who was raped and used as a pawn. Dinah was not heard. No one thought to listen to her. Here, at CBY, We all have a voice, and I encourage you to use it. Members of Sisterhood sit on the CBY Board, chair and work on committees and use their heads, hearts and hands to bring so much of our rich tapestry of experiences. So, for this month’s Woman of Valor, I choose Dinah, daughter of Leah and Jacob. Let’s all take a vow, to be her voice and the voice of voiceless women around the world.

In closing, I would like to share with you Sisterhood’s 2019-2019 Strategic Plan:

**MISSION:**
To provide religious, social, cultural and community activities in support of Congregation Beth Yam (CBY).

**VISION:**
All women of CBY will become participating members of Sisterhood.

**GOAL I:**
Support the ideals of Reform Judaism and projects of Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ).
A. Educate membership
   - By attending WRJ conferences, assemblies and area days, and supporting advocacy programs
   - Through written communication on various CBY platforms or Social Media
   - With speakers at meetings and events
B. Fundraising
C. Engage our youth in Jewish life

**GOAL II:**
Enrich the life of the Congregation.
A. Identify needs and take appropriate action.
B. Fundraising
C. Multi-generational programs
D. Judaica Shop
E. Encourage joint committee programming
F. Use the Lisa G. Memorial Fund to support the needs of the women of the congregation

**GOAL III:**
Maintain good will of community at large.
A. Support charitable community activities
B. Outreach to Jewish Community of the Lowcountry
C. Promote positive image through public relations
   - Participate in the Women’s Prayer Service

**BOOK GROUP**
On Thursday, January 23, at 12:45 PM, we will be discussing “The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit” by Lucette Lagnado. Sisterhood member Lili Kertesz, who lived in Cairo, one of the book’s settings, will lead the discussion in the Social Hall. You are welcome to bring lunch. Cold drinks will be provided. RSVP by January 20 to Rita Suntup by email.

We will be reading “The Huntress” by Kate Quinn on March 26 and “The Ministry of Special Cases” by Nathan Englander on May 7. Hope to see you at our discussions!

**WOMEN’S STUDY GROUP**
The next study group will be held on January 15. Linda Moniuszko, chair, has opened her home to host this event. Our featured speaker, Carol Horowitz, will tell us about her experiences walking the Appalachian Trail.

Since seating is limited, please respond early. Only twenty reservations are being accepted. Please send RSVPs as well as potluck items you intend to bring (entrée, appetizer, salad or dessert) to Tena Graber by email.

**COMMUNITY SEDER**
Mark your calendars for our Annual Community Seder to be held on Thursday, April 9 at 5:00 PM at the temple. Everyone has enjoyed this wonderful event in the past. We look forward to having a beautiful service and dinner again. Be on the lookout for reservation forms. Please plan to join the festivities.
Social Action Committee—Barbara Meyer, Chair

This is a busy time for the Social Action Committee. For me, it started with the Blessing of the Animals that took place in early November. In collaboration with the Religious School, we gathered together...families, children, assorted animals...for song, good cheer and the rabbi’s blessing of pets brought by the humans who love and care for them. We remembered pets who have died.

The Humane Society was present, bringing furry friends in need of a home.

Sadly that Sunday, no adoption took place. But we were able to collect cash donations and an assortment of supplies that the agency had put on their wish list. Altogether, it was a sweet, well-attended event.

Fortuitously, because a congregant family was moving and cleaning closets, we received a donation of coats and warm outerwear. There was no “coat drive” planned for this season. However, this donation inspired another member to clean his closet, too. Evolving into a mini-coat drive, we were able to donate a stack of warm clothing to a local church.

The blood drive was held on December 8. Our plan is to evaluate whether or not to continue this endeavor after we assess how many pints are collected.

In January, we are looking forward to a number of events to honor and remember Dr. Martin Luther King’s life’s work. The first is an ecumenical community worship service at the Christ Lutheran Church beginning at 7:00 PM on January 16. Next will be our synagogue’s Shabbat service beginning at 7:30 PM on January 17. We will have choirs from other churches joining our choir. On the bimah with Rabbi Bloom will be Rev. Dr. Jon Black from the Campbell AME Church of Bluffton and Rev. Lewis Johnson from Central Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church on Hilton Head.

The Black Excellence Ball will take place at the Hilton Head Beach and Tennis Resort this year. For information about tickets, call: 516-452-3703. This gala promises to be a glittering, joyous party. All are welcome for the price of a ticket.

The culmination of this long weekend of events will be the MLK Memorial Program, a march of solidarity, speakers, awards and a luncheon held at Hilton Head High School cafeteria beginning at 10:00 AM on January 20.

The Social Action Committee invites you to show your support by attending as many events as you can. Know that it took many hands of all colors coming together and months of work to make the Martin Luther King weekend a reality, not just a “dream”.

Hot Topics Shabbat

The subject of the Hot Topics Shabbat will revolve around the recent Presidential Executive Order in Fighting Anti-Semitism on America’s College Campuses. The Jewish community in America is divided between a unanimous belief that anti-Semitism is growing and becoming more violent. At the same time, there is the belief that shutting down dissent even against the State of Israel by penalizing Title VI funds from the Civil Rights Act of 1964 goes against the First Amendment and violates the spirit of the First Amendment’s right to Freedom of Speech.

This session will have a panel of attorneys and respondents who will discuss the different aspects of this case. Was the president’s executive order the right thing to do towards stemming the tide of anti-Semitism or will it lead to furthering anti-Semitism down the road?

Please join us for breakfast, prayer, and stimulating discussion on Saturday, January 18, beginning at 9:15 AM.
Ritual Committee —
David Kurjan, Chair

While there are no Jewish holidays of note this month, January has a special personal meaning to me in a religious sense. I became a Bar Mitzvah 62 years ago on January 11. The Torah portion that day was Shemot, the first portion in the book of Exodus. (We’ll be reading it this year on January 17.) It includes the Israelites’ affliction in Egypt, the hiding and rescuing of the infant Moses, his later escape to Midian, the burning bush, and Moses’ first appearance before Pharaoh. At the end of January we’ll read from the portion Bo. This one is also special to me because it was the portion read on the day of my father’s Bar Mitzvah in 1930. This portion includes the final three plagues, the exodus from Egypt, and the commandment to observe Passover. These are some of the most important events in our history and the deliverance of our people.

One More Thing – Beginning this month Jaquey Schmid takes over as chair of the Ritual Committee. I am stepping down after five years in this position. It has been an honor to help guide this important CBY committee as we strive to provide a smooth-running and meaningful worship experience. I know Jaquey will do an excellent job and bring new ideas to our efforts. Please give her your full support as we transition to new leadership.

Happy New Year 🎉

Honoring the Fallen Jewish Service
Men and Women

On December 14 thirteen CBY congregants, both young and old, met at Beaufort National Cemetery to place wreaths on the graves of the Jewish soldiers who gave their lives to defend the freedoms we all enjoy. At the end of the ceremony Dave Solomon gave the closing benediction in Rabbi Bloom’s absence, and the team then placed 100 wreaths bearing a Mogen David on the graves of fallen Jewish men and women buried at the cemetery. Our team identified 135 Jewish grave sites which got wreaths, and in total more than 21,000 wreaths were placed on the graves of soldiers interred in Beaufort. The keynote speaker summed it up as follows, “These were people who had families, they had a life, and many times they were young…but they were willing to give it all.” It was a memorable experience and a Mitzvah that is worth our time and effort remembering those who died serving our country. 🎁
The Urato family from the renowned Fratello’s Restaurant of Hilton Head will be serving up their famous spaghetti and meatballs!

**Sunday, January 12**

**12:00-5:00 PM at Congregation Beth Yam**

Spaghetti, meatballs, bread, salad, and a drink

Online until Jan. 5:
- $10 per person, $5 for children 4-12,
- free for children 3 & under

Walk In: $12/pp., $7 for children 4-12,
- free for children 3 & under

**Carry Out or Dine In**

Proceeds go towards the purchase of a playground for CBY

For tickets go to: [www.bethyam.org](http://www.bethyam.org) Or [click here](http://www.bethyam.org).

Enter the raffle online until Jan. 5 or in person that day to win beautiful artwork created by local artists! Click [Artwork Raffle](http://www.bethyam.org) and try your luck as many times as you would like! $5 per entry

[CLICK HERE](http://www.bethyam.org) if you can join us as a volunteer.
Latkes and sufganiyot, menorah blessings, and good conversation were all part of the festivities as the Care Committee held its annual Chanukah luncheon celebration at the temple on December 17. CBY members and Jewish residents of area senior residences attended. Special thanks to Rabbi Bloom for his welcome and blessing over the challah and David Kimbell, Charlie Curtis, and Larry Kopp for taking us back to Broadway while listening to our favorite show tunes, and to all of our wonderful temple volunteers who made our guests feel so welcome.

A wonderful time was had by all!
Thursday, January 16, 7:00 PM

Ecumenical Community Worship Service
Christ Lutheran Church
829 William Hilton Parkway
Hilton Head Island

Friday, January 17, 7:30 PM

Shabbat Service at Congregation Beth Yam
with the CBY Shabbat Choir
4501 Meeting Street
Hilton Head Island

Monday, January 20, 10:00 AM

MLK Memorial March
Starting and ending at Hilton Head High School parking lot
Lunch to follow in the high school cafeteria
“We are very grateful to Jack for orchestrating our rebuilding project. He organized and scheduled all the subcontractors, and completed our renovations on time and within budget”

Lynne and Roger Irvine

“This project included foam insulating the bonus and other areas, hanging and finishing sheetrock, and painting the renovated bonus room, as well as the kitchen, living room and foyer. We also installed recessed can lighting and ceiling fans. The newly renovated spaces provide Lynne and Roger with a whole new look inside their beautiful home.

If you are thinking about renovating your home, call me and I will be happy to discuss the project with you. “

Jack Resnick, Owner

Group 4 Builders, LLC  843-422-6925  jack1899resnick@gmail.com
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