Israeli Independence Day Celebration

Join us for a
LIVE Stream Concert
with Student Cantor Olivia Brodsky

Sunday
May 3
1:00 PM

Concert will be live-streamed on bethyam.org. Click on the large StreamSpot icon to view the concert. Also available on Facebook.

Chag Shavuot Sameach!
Care Committee - JoAnne Doyle

April was a difficult month of social isolation. At some point, our lives will return to what will be the new normal. We will be able to attend services at CBY and visit out of town family and friends. Hopefully, too, we will renew our appreciation for the freedoms we have missed and enjoy them even more.

If you know of someone who is in need of any help, please let me know by email. The committee will give them a call and find out how we can be of assistance.


---

Be sure to follow us...

Twitter: congregationbethyam@CBYinHiltonHead
Instagram: congregationbethyam
Like our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/congregationbethyam/
We made it to May! Where does one begin to summarize how we feel these days? We have watched the death toll of the COVID-19 virus exceed 50,000 lives in America. The numbers of infections worldwide and in our country are staggering. The economic pandemic, created by the coronavirus, has competed for our attention and looms over us. The impact has severely jolted our financial resources and the business community as well. It is not clear when this nightmare ends or how it will end. Many have shared their impatience and fear not only for their own lives but for their children and grandchildren wherever they live.

It is understandable to succumb to the psychological trauma and the fear from the effects of COVID-19. Yet, there is another side of the story which should be told. Within our own Jewish community many good and positive things have happened to lift up our spirits and bring us together as a community in ways we have not experienced before.

Let’s recall some of those positive moments: we had a bar mitzvah of twin boys outside under the front portico of the temple. We have had tremendous turnouts at services using our live stream capability on Shabbat. We have had concerts, classes, Torah study on Shabbat using Zoom and live stream. We formed a new committee called Pikuach Nefesh which means saving a life. These group of volunteers has already published a collection of writings from our congregants. They will be preserved as part of our history representing how CBY members remember and experienced this virus. Our Passover food program in collaboration with Serg catering was a big hit to provide quality Passover meals. We sponsored a live stream Seder with Judy Bluestone, Linda and myself.

Another positive observation is how so many of us have been strict and disciplined to follow the protocols to protect ourselves from contracting the virus. Most congregants I have spoken to have been extremely diligent in staying at home and minimizing their exposure to others. Clearly, CBY is doing its share to make a difference in a much larger national effort to flatten the virus curve.

Now we are getting ready for a series of events in May to engage us and to help us remember that your congregation cares about you. We want to do what we can to bring us together, even if it is accomplished by means of a live stream camera or a Zoom lens. In May our student cantor Olivia Brodsky will deliver, from her home in Detroit, an Israel Independence Day concert on May 3. She will also present a music program on songs of hope and inspiration later on in the month. On May 4 our member Barbara Meyer, who is a psychologist, is presenting a live stream program on how to cope with stress during these difficult times.

Soon enough we prepare for the holy day of Shavuot which begins Thursday night May 28 with services for Shavuot on Friday morning at 10 AM, May 29. We shall celebrate the great moment in Jewish history when God gave the Torah to the Jewish people at Mount Sinai.

What does this all mean? It stands for the idea that we are resilient. The CBY community like our lifecycle continues on unabated from the COVID-19 virus. As I have said over and over again, we cannot let the pandemic define us or diminish our deep seated commitment to the values, lifecycle events, and worship life of the congregation. This is an effort that depends on the professional staff, and I am proud of them for going above and beyond. I am grateful to our President Judy Bluestone who leads the way for the board to reach out to the congregations, demonstrating how much they care for the wellbeing of all of CBY. I hope we are all grateful to them for providing the leadership we need at this hour.

I hope all of us will realize by now how special our temple community is and how dedicated we are to moving forward and towards carrying the Torah whether it is in digital form or the scrolls themselves into the hearts and souls of us all. Thank you Beth Yam for responding with such support. In this way everyone is making the difference towards a brighter future for the congregation.

Keep washing, wear your masks, and practice social distancing. It is paying off in so many ways. As it is written in the Torah, Moses said to Joshua, “Hazak vematz.” “Be strong and have courage.” Keep up the great work, CBY. I am proud of all of us.

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

Exactly four weeks ago the CBY leadership made the prudent decision to close our doors for the duration of the COVID-19 epidemic. While it was painful to cancel our annual joyous celebrations of Passover and make adjustments to the B’nai Mitzvot of Adam and David Rosen and Jessica Staigar, we were wise to do so. Over these last weeks, we have adapted to the current reality and, while none of us knows when we can safely return to the synagogue, we are learning how to keep us together as a community in a virtual way.

Zoom has provided the means of managing staff and synagogue board and committee meetings and Rabbi Bloom’s weekly classes and cultural events; our streaming service StreamSpot and Facebook Live have carried weekly Shabbat and our Passover services (Community Seder, Passover Festival and Yizkor services). Jewish life continues in the Lowcountry. With our Director of Youth Education Valerie Seldes and Rachel Pepin, Rabbi Bloom is conducting Boker Tov services with the Religious School. Student Cantor Olivia Brodsky will be co-leading Torah study and providing musical programs from her home in Michigan.

None of these things could happen without the enthusiastic and creative leadership of Rabbi Bloom and the devotion of our outstanding staff Valerie Seldes, Michele Johnson, Ceil Treiss, Dianne Lindquist, David Kimbell, Adriana Urato, Yvonne Williams and Ron Bruns and the technical savvy of board member Michael Shapiro. Michael, Michele and Ceil are our tech researchers and advisers, Dianne has been managing our financial activities from home through prescient arrangements made by treasurer Mike Weingarten and loyal Ron Bruns has managed the logistics of arranging social distancing at the bimah. Honorable mention of Yvonne Williams and her crew who have been keeping our building germ free and have pitched in when extra hands were needed. The little booklets sent to the congregation were written by Valerie and Rabbi Bloom and published and packaged by Valerie, Michele and Yvonne. “Kol Ha Kovod” to these outstanding women.

The business of Beth Yam has proceeded via Zoom. The 2020-21 slate was announced and bios of new board members appear in this Tidings issue. I thank the Nominating Committee chaired by David Kurjan and its members Steve Burstein, Barbara Meyer, Myra Goldschmidt and Joel Greene. Since the office is closed, we will be conducting this year’s election electronically. You will soon receive a copy of the slate and voting instructions from me. The app, ElectionBuddy, will be used. It will make voting a breeze and anonymity is assured. If you and your partner share an email you will receive two ballots. As of now, our Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 11 at 7:00 PM. If CBY is not open we will conduct a virtual meeting, announce the results of the balloting, provide reports from selected committees, and present the budget for your review.

The Pikuach Nefesh Task Force led by Shari Box and Robin Katz has offered to help out congregants who need assistance. Their services include picking up pre-ordered and pre-paid groceries, dog walking and/or just having a good phone conversation. Please call or email Rabbi Bloom or me if you need these services. Board member and SAC chair Barbara Meyer will conduct a session on the value of meditation to get one through the stress of these times.

Also, please remember that laughter is excellent medicine. Get out those old Jewish joke books. Finally, Robin Katz and Tobin Spirer are collecting poems, writings, and your thoughts as we manage this contemporary plague. Please know that we are thinking of you and pray that we can come together as a congregation and family very soon.

With wishes for Shalom and good health to each of you.

Judy

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

Thus far, during our current fiscal year (July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020), 26 new member units have joined our congregation (nine resident families, ten resident singles, and seven affiliate families). We thank our amazing committee for their hard work in greeting, guiding, mentoring and honoring our new “family” members and helping them to find their place at CBY.

In addition, we thank all of you for your role in encouraging new friends and neighbors to come and give CBY a look. Especially now, when we are all separated from so many that we love and the normalcy that we may once have taken for granted, please continue to let everyone — far and near — know of all our rabbi and community have to offer. We welcome everyone to make our congregation their spiritual home during these challenging times.

Welcome to our newest affiliate member, Colonel David Snell of California and Hilton Head Plantation! ✨
Sisterhood — Randy Kurjan, President

Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, the pandemic is on the downside of the curve. I know that we all are praying for this. I hope that you all are well and managing to discover new things to do with your time at home. I also hope you had a wonderful Passover. As you know, we had to cancel our beloved Women’s Seder. Thanks to your generosity, you have made it possible, by the donations of your registration fees, to donate over $700 to Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger. We also were not able to have the Community Seder. Your money should have been refunded by this time. Please let me know if you have not received your refund check.

Sisterhood had its first Zoom Board Meeting! We are all ramping up our technology skills! Typically, we would announce our slate of officers at the Women’s Seder/General Meeting. As that was not possible, the Nominating Committee is proud to announce your Board Officers for the 2020-2021 year. They are: Helen Hauer, President; Randy Kurjan, Immediate Past President; Felicia Pascal, Treasurer; Ellen Jenner, Recording Secretary; Sheila Margeson, Corresponding Secretary; Tena Graber, VP of Community, Cultural and Social Affairs; Lorna Bonner, VP of Membership; Robin Krumholz, VP of the Judaica Shop; Sue Gostanian, Fundraising. The position of VP for Congregational Services remains open. If you’re interested in this important position, please let me know. Randy Kurjan will be assuming the position of Acting VP of Congregational Services until it can be filled.

A president is only as good as its board. I have been blessed with a group of amazing women who have worked tirelessly. We had so many changes and challenges. Sue Gostanian, Past President — you have been my mentor and friend, guiding me with your experience. Felicia Pascal, Treasurer — you have cleaned our financial house and kept it in order; JoAnne Doyle, Recording Secretary — your keeping of the minutes have enabled us to have an ongoing record of what we do (especially when memory fails)! Janice Fradkin, Corresponding Secretary — you have acknowledged donations, life cycle events and all other correspondence flawlessly. Tena Graber and Ellen Jenner, Co-VPs for Community and Social Affairs — you have organized the Community Seder (though it did not come to pass), oversaw the Book Club under Rita Suntup, Tidings Sisterhood Page under Barbara Meyer, and Women’s Studies under Linda Moniuszko, as well as other activities. Sheila Margeson, VP of Congregational Services, did a wonderful job coordinating the onegs and working on the Women’s Seder. Robin Krumholz, VP of the Judaica Shop — you have done a stellar job revamping and running the shop. You did so much! Helen Hauer, Historian, Parliamentarian, Policy and Procedure Guru — how many hats do you wear in order to keep us focused, organized and “by the book!” You will be an awesome president! We lost dear two dear board members, sisters; Ruth Hilsen, VP of Membership and Jaquey Schmid, Co-VP of Congregational Services. You both worked tirelessly for Sisterhood. We love and miss you! I thank you all for your dedicated service, flexibility and humor.

This month’s Woman of Valor is CBY member and Cantorial Soloist, Adriana Urato! Adriana is a born and bred Hilton Head Islander. She has kept the music alive by coming into the temple with Rabbi Bloom, so that our soul could be uplifted by her beautiful voice in song and prayer. Adriana goes above and beyond to make people on the bimah comfortable, whether during services, B’nai Mitzvot or Purim revelry. Thank you, Adriana, for all you do to support our spirituality!

This will be my last column as your president. I want you to know that I have been proud to represent the women of Congregation Beth Yam. I will end this column and my tenure as your president with a quote from the book and movie, “The Help”: “You is Kind, You is Smart, You is Important.” Don’t ever forget it!

BOOK CLUB
Rita Suntup

Hope you’re all well. Now is a great time to catch up on your reading! We’ll re-schedule THE HUNTRESS by Kate Quinn and THE MINISTRY OF SPECIAL CASES by Nathan Englander as soon as we can.

We need book recommendations! Please e-mail your selections to me.

Stay safe, and Happy Reading!

FOR ALL THOSE WISHING TO DONATE TO A SISTERHOOD FUND:
Until the synagogue is open again, please use one of these two methods for your donations:
1. Send your check directly to Sisterhood treasurer Felicia Pascal at 3 Anglers Pond Court, HHI, SC 29926-2611 or
2. Use the Sisterhood donation form on our website donation page (bethyam.org) and your donation will be processed by PayPal.

Thank you for your cooperation. ★
**Nominating Committee Report — David Kurjan, Chair**

The CBY annual meeting had been scheduled for Thursday, June 11 at 7:00 PM at the synagogue. As of this writing, it is doubtful we will have that in-person event. The meeting was to include election of the Board of Directors, reports from the treasurer, Rabbi, affiliate organizations, and committees. In accordance with Article XII of our by-laws, the Nominating Committee has recommended a slate of nominees to fill the positions of the officers and directors whose terms are expiring or being vacated. We will be conducting the election electronically using ElectionBuddy. CBY members will be notified via email with a link to the voting site. The slate of nominees for 2020-21 and some biographies follows.

## Biographies

### Candy Solomon

I grew up in Ohio and attended the University of Toledo, where I earned my BA in Teaching. I married my husband, Dave, and we moved to Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, where I continued teaching in grades 1-6. I earned my Master’s Degree in Reading and my Early Childhood Endorsement from Oakland University. We have two married children and five grandchildren. After teaching for forty years I retired, and we built a house in Bluffton, then joined CBY and quickly became involved. I joined the Membership Committee and have been co-chair for four years. I also joined Sisterhood and was Corresponding Secretary for two years. I worked in the Judaica Shop and was a reader at the Children’s Center, and I was on the CBY Financial Task Force representing the Membership Committee. In addition, I served as a member of the search committee to find a Religious School Director. I was also on the CBY Board Nominating Committee for two years.

I completed the CBY Leadership Class and the URJ Congregational Governance Course. I was chair of the Music Matters Task Force and a member of the Student Cantor Support Group in charge of hospitality. I have been on the CBY Board of Directors for four years, First Vice President for the past two years, and I am currently serving on the Budget and Finance Committee and the Long Range Planning Committee.

I will use much of what I have learned to be an active and enthusiastic president as we bridge the generations at CBY from Sea Pines to Okatie. Thank you for your support!

### Marida Bruggeman

Thank you for selecting me to be on the slate for the CBY Board of Directors election! While I am a native of Atlanta, I have lived in Bluffton for sixteen years. In that time, I’ve developed my practice as a Financial Advisor, and I’ve been busy raising my two children — Ella, who is fourteen — and Cooper, who just turned ten. As a CBY member, I participated on the Religious School Committee for four years, and served as the co-chair of the committee for two of those years. Currently, I am an active member of the Long Range Planning Committee. My partner, Matt, and I enjoy dining out, listening to live music, fine wines, and spending time with our children. In my personal time, you will often find me cheering on our kiddos at all of their sporting and theatre events, planning our next trip, reading historical fiction, or dreaming up projects to keep myself busy. I look forward to working with the CBY leadership team to preserve and develop our Jewish community here in the Lowcountry!

### Renee Roth

Hi. I’m Renee Roth. We bought a second home here 12 years ago to be near the ocean and our cousins, Sam and Gay Birnbaum. We joined CBY as an affiliate and then became full members when we retired here from Cincinnati five years ago. I am married 48 years to Eli and we have 2 sons, Scott and Lee, a daughter-in-law, Susie and one to be, Alex. We have three grandchildren — Jolie, Remy, and Madelyn.

I was a teacher until our boys were born when I became a full time mother and volunteer. I was active in the schools and the Jewish community and in our synagogue. Professionally, I was on the school board where our boys went to school, I was a part time principal of the Conservative Supplementary Jewish High School for a few years, and I taught religious school. My experience in synagogue life is as a past president of our congregation and Sisterhood, vice president of programming, religious school committee, finance committee, chair of many events, the person in charge of
Ritual Committee — David Kurjan, Chair

Shavuot will begin at sunset on May 28 this year, which coincides with the date (5 Sivan) that God gave the Torah to the Jewish people at Mount Sinai more than 3,300 years ago. Every year on the holiday of Shavuot we renew our acceptance of God’s gift, and God “regives” the Torah. Our sages have compared it to a wedding between God and the Jewish people.

It is celebrated by lighting holiday candles to usher in the holiday, staying up all night to learn Torah, hearing the reading of the Ten Commandments in synagogue, and feasting on dairy foods. Menus range from traditional cheese blintzes to quiches, casseroles, and more. Also, a Yizkor memorial service is recited. Some communities read the Book of Ruth publicly, since King David — whose passing occurred on this day — was a descendant of Ruth the Moabite.

One reason for the tradition of eating dairy is as follows: With the giving of the Torah, the Jews became obligated to observe the kosher laws. Since the Torah was given on Shabbat, no cattle could be slaughtered nor could utensils be koshered, so on that day they ate dairy. Another reason given is that The Torah is likened to nourishing milk. Also, the Hebrew word for milk is chalav, and when the numerical values of each of the letters in the word chalav are added together (8 + 30 + 2), the total is forty. Forty is the number of days Moses spent on Mount Sinai when receiving the Torah.

Judie Aronson Social Justice Initiative Award Winners Announced

The Judie Aronson Social Justice Initiative committee is pleased to announce its award selections for the 2019-2020 school year. This year’s recipients are: Jaala Grant — Hilton Head High School; Joy Elizabeth Schleicher — May River High School; and Grayson Short — Bluffton High School.

Jaala’s commitment to social justice includes extensive work with the Martin Luther King Day Committee and the Mitchellville Project. She will be attending the University of South Carolina and will live in a residence hall dedicated to leadership and community.

Joy’s work is in inclusion of all, based on her support for gender equality. She is leaving for a planned gap year and then will continue to work in the area of social justice through her studies in both undergraduate and graduate school. Her long range goals include work with the Peace Corps and the Department of Education.

Grayson’s emphasis is in the anti-bullying campaigns. He has mentored young people who were bullied, as he once was, and has found creative ways to show young people how to recognize and overcome bullying. These young people represent what Judie stood for with regard to social justice. The committee is grateful for the support of Judie’s family and for its increasing the award this year to $2000 for each recipient.

What’s Cooking in Sisterhood?

Are you tired of being cooped up? Are you looking for some new, easy, healthier recipes to feed yourself and loved ones? CBY Sisterhood has a quick, easy solution for you. Email Sheila Margeson or Ellie Dixon for some inspiration. Tell us what kind of recipe you are looking for – breakfast, brunch, lunch, dinner, desserts or appetizers. We'll email you a recipe with instructions, educational information, and hints. You can call us for advice, questions or just to chat. Let’s have some fun cooking together.

Please contact us:
- Sheila Margeson by email.
- Ellie Dixon by email.

Once life gets back to normal and CBY reopens, you can see Ellie & Sheila COOK LIVE at CBY!
Howard Rothchild

I grew up in beautiful Burlington, Vermont, on the shores of Lake Champlain, with the Green Mountains just down the road. Baseball (shortstop), football (quarterback) and skiing are what I remember most from high school and college (UVM).

My adult years were consumed with management/creative work in advertising agencies in Pittsburgh, Atlanta and Miami. Clients included Sears, Jimmy Carter, Ivan Lendl, Sports Authority, Office Depot, and the State of Georgia Tourism.

I’ve had a time share in Hilton Head (The Island Club) since 1981, but knew little about CBY. My Jewish roots were cultivated by The Temple in Atlanta and Temple Beth Shalom in Miami Beach.

THEN — 5 YEARS AGO, I JOINED CBY because I had just moved here to renew my life, with the first love of my life. I only knew Sheri and Snowy when I came here, but at my first Shabbat service as a guest, I found 65 new friends. Since then CBY has become a wonderful, nurturing, important part of my life. The caring, compassionate nature of all that CBY means to me is best expressed by “CBY MATTERS . . . TO MY LIFE, MY SPIRIT, MY COMMUNITY.” ☬
A Fresh New Look...

“Working with Jack is not like working with any contractor that I have ever worked with before. He is the most organized and thorough project manager that I have ever worked with.

He spent a lot of time up front anticipating anything that could go wrong or could go over budget and presented it as possible scenarios before starting the project. He also added some suggestions to the original design which really enhanced the end product. He started and completed the project on time and under budget. When working with him it becomes very apparent that he is honest and cares about getting the job done right. I would not hesitate to hire Jack again in the future”.

Jan Johnson

Dear Friends,

These are uncertain times. I wish you safe harbor and continued good health during the days and months ahead.

Jack Resnick
Owner, Group 4 Builders, LLC
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.

2019/2020 Board of Directors

OFFICERS
Judy Bluestone President
Candy Solomon 1st Vice President
David Kurjan 2nd Vice President
Michael Weingarten Treasurer
Doug Luba Recording Secretary
Janice Fradkin Corresponding Secretary
Pennie Meiselman Immediate Past President

DIRECTORS
Philip Davidson
Joel Greene
Helen Hauer
Barbara Meyer
Jeremy Press
Felicia Roth
Renee Roth
Howard Rothchild
Michael Shapiro

Rabbi Brad L. Bloom
Sisterhood President, Randy Kurjan
Men’s Club President, Dave Solomon