Have a Safe & Happy Chanukah
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<td>3PM Fund Raising-Zoom</td>
<td>3PM Endowment Trustees-Zoom</td>
<td>1PM Nominating Committee-Zoom</td>
<td>6PM Shabbat Service-Livestream</td>
<td>Parashat Vayishlach</td>
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<td>11AM Chanukah Bazaar</td>
<td>3PM Forefront Interview-Israel and the prospects for a new era of peace in the Middle East-Livestream</td>
<td>11AM Covid and Healing-Zoom</td>
<td>10AM Torah Study-Zoom</td>
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<td>Chanukah 4</td>
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<td>5:30 PM Chanukiah Lighting</td>
<td>3PM Forefront Interview-Anti-Semitism: From both sides of the political spectrum and what to do about it-Livestream</td>
<td>10AM Budget &amp; Finance meeting-Zoom</td>
<td>10:30 AM Sisterhood Board-Zoom</td>
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<td>1:30 PM SAC Meeting-Zoom</td>
<td>5PM Forefront Interview-Looking forward towards 2021: The future of COVID19-Livestream</td>
<td>4PM Staff Meeting-Zoom</td>
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<td>Candle Lighting 5:17 PM OFFICE CLOSED</td>
<td>6PM Shabbat Service-Livestream</td>
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<td>4PM Staff Meeting-Zoom</td>
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Rabbi’s Message

“Now on the five and twentieth day of the ninth month, which is called the month of Kislev, in the hundred forty and eighth year, they rose up in the morning, and offered sacrifice according to the law upon the new altar of burnt offerings, which they had made. At the very season and on the very day that the Gentiles had profaned it, it was dedicated with songs, citherns, harps, and cymbals.... And so they kept the dedication of the altar eight days.... Moreover Judah and his brethren, with the whole congregation of Israel, ordained that the days of the dedication of the altar should be kept in their season from year to year for eight days, from the five and twentieth day of the month Kislev, with mirth and gladness” (I Macc. 4:52-59).

The post biblical Book of Maccabees described above the restoration of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem after the Hasmonean revolt succeeded in throwing the Greeks out of the land of Judea. This verse represents not just a political or military victory but a religious purification process to bring the official public religious institution back to life and to reaffirm the autonomy and integrity of the Jewish people in charge of their own destiny again. This why the holiday is called Hanukkah, which means dedication.

Then there is another sacred text not from the Book of Maccabees but from the pages of the Talmud from tractate Shabbat. This story may be familiar to you. “What is Hanukkah? For the rabbis have taught: ‘Commencing with the twenty-fifth day of the month of Kislev there are eight days upon which there shall be neither mourning nor fasting. For when the Greeks entered the Temple, they defiled all the oil that was there. It was when the might of the Hasmonean dynasty overcame and vanquished them that, upon search, only a single cruse of undefiled oil, sealed by the High Priest, was found. In it was oil enough for the needs of a single day. A miracle was wrought and it burned eight days. The next year they ordained these days a holiday with songs and praises’ (B. Shab. 21b: for variations of the story, see Pesiqta Rabbati, ed. Meir Ish Shalom, p. 5a; Megilat Ta’anit, ed. Lichtenstein, P. 341).

You certainly recognize this famous story that is told to every Jewish child from time in memoriam. Note that this story does not relate to the political or military prowess of the Hasmonean fighters against the Greeks. Also, we should know that there is no tractate on Hanukkah in the entire Mishnah. It is mentioned just a few times. Were the rabbis afraid that if they celebrated Jewish pride and resistance that their current conquerors, the Romans, would have wrecked further destruction on the land of Judea as they did when they destroyed the Holy Temple in 70 CE?

Today thousands of years later Hanukkah becomes one of Zionism’s earliest symbols of the rejuvenated Jewish state. The Maccabean games stir the spirit of Jewish pride and resilience. Today the miracle of the light and God’s presence in history must share the limelight with the national aspirations of the Jewish people.

It never ceases to amaze how the passing of time can change the meaning of our customs and rituals. Today so many rituals and customs from spinning the dreidel, eating jelly doughnuts, latkes and, of course, gift giving have been added to the layers of Jewish practice. Still, above all with culture and religious ritual, we remember the word of the prophet Zechariah whom we read on Shabbat in the Haphtarah when he said, “Not by might, not by power but by My spirit,” will we appreciate that Jewish continuity will prevail in the long term. And we Jews have always played the long game. Maybe that is why we have sustained ourselves for so long.

God bless and Chag Hanukkah Sameach! A joyous Hanukkah celebration to all.

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

Forefront Fall Series

Live-streamed

Monday, December 7, 3:00 – 4:00pm
Israel and the prospects for a new era of peace in the Middle East—Livestream

Monday, December 14, 3:00 – 4:00pm
Anti-Semitism: From both sides of the political spectrum and what to do about it, with Allison Padilla Goodman, the Southeast Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League, based in Atlanta.

Monday, December 21, 5:00 – 6:00pm

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

http://www.islandpacket.com/living/religion/faith-in-action/
TEMPLE TIDINGS

Message from the President – Candy Solomon

Shalom CBY,

Hanukkah, the festival of lights, begins Thursday evening, December 10. CBY will celebrate the holiday with a candle lighting event in Bluffton on the evening of Sunday, December 13, and at CBY for our annual Night of 100 Menorot on Friday, December 18.

We remember the story of how the oil in the temple lasted for eight days and eight nights, and how we might have imagined that what we had wasn’t enough, but it was. We are entering the season when we are inundated with commercials urging us to consume endlessly and spend more and more. Hanukkah reminds us that what we have is enough. Even though the days are shorter, and the nights are longer, lighting the Hanukkah candles makes everything brighter and more hopeful.

Hope is on the horizon. We are hopeful that a vaccine will become available to fight COVID-19. We are hopeful that we can reopen CBY to gather in person for services. We are hopeful that we can get together with family and friends. We are hopeful that we can travel on vacations safely. We are hopeful that we can go out to restaurants, plays, and sporting events. We are hopeful that we can return to some kind of normal.

Hanukkah is the season of hope and miracles. This year has been difficult for all of us, but we have survived. Whether your preference is for latkes, sufganiyot, or both, enjoy celebrating the traditions of the holiday. Sing songs, read books, and play the dreidel game with your kids and grandkids. Be thankful for the small miracles that we do have. Here’s to the renewing light and hope for family, community, and friendships.

Happy Hanukkah!

Shalom and keep smiling, Candy

November Board Meeting Action Items

(Abstracted from Board Minutes)

1. Maury Fradkin and a small committee made some minor changes to the Arts and Acquisition Policy. Judy Bluestone suggested that Maury work with Michael Shapiro to be sure the ultimate document is consistent in form and style with other policies. The edited version of the policy, now entitled Non-Cash Donations Policy (including Art and Acquisitions), was presented to the board. A motion to accept the revised policy (D. Kurjan/R. Roth) passed.

2. Nominating Committee. Judy Bluestone proposed that Phil Davidson (who is ineligible to serve) be replaced by Doug Luba. A motion (J. Bluestone/B. Meyer) was passed.

3. Candy Solomon presented a proposal to recruit a part-time IT Tech to be responsible for running the AV and live streaming equipment, and for preparing PowerPoint slides to be projected. The ExCom recommended looking for someone at either USCB or TCL. Ensuing discussion resulted in a consensus to proceed with a salary level of between $13/hr. and $18/hr., not to exceed $15,000 per annum. It was suggested we also speak to local faith communities which may already have such individuals employed. Felicia Roth indicated that several employees in her IT department might be interested in part-time work. Joel Greene suggested leaving social media coordination out of this job description as this is a much bigger issue for CBY. Two motions were passed: The first (J. Press/D. Luba) authorized the search for someone to fill the position, with the proviso that a job description would be shared with the board before the search began. That motion passed. The second motion (J. Press/P. Davidson) amended the first motion by including the hourly salary and annual cap of $15,000. That motion also passed. ∗
December brings cooler nights and less daylight. We will welcome the glowing light of the chanukiah with the first night of Chanukah on December 10 this year. Most of us come from an Ashkenazi background and celebrate with latkes, chocolate gelt, and dreidel spinning. We may also enjoy sufganiyot, Israeli jelly doughnuts. Jews throughout the world, however, celebrate the victory of Judah Maccabee and his fighters in many different ways.

Italian Jews feast on precipizi, small fried balls of dough drizzled with warm honey, as they enjoy wine at Chanukah. Crowds gather around a 20 foot tall menorah lit at the Piazza Barberini in Rome. A giant menorah is also lit in London’s Trafalgar Square. With over 250,000 Jews in London, thousands come to see this annual event.

Instead of eating latkes, Jews in Santa Marta, Columbia, eat patacones, which are fried plantains. In Istanbul, Turkish Jews eat burmelos, which are fritters similar to latkes. Moroccan Jews eat sfenj, doughnuts that are made with the juice and zest from an orange. Barfi is a milk-based treat with sweet fruits that is eaten by Jews in India at Chanukah. The thriving Jewish community in India does not light wax candles, but instead have wicks dipped in coconut oil.

A custom for Jews in Afghanistan dates from 1839 when thousands of Jews fled Persia to escape the Muslim authorities that forcibly were trying to convert the Jews. Instead of lighting menorahs, these families filled small plates with oil and placed them near each other. Fearing detection from Muslim neighbors, they would spread the plates around the house when visitors came. This tradition remains today. Many of us place our menorahs in a window to proclaim the miracle of the holiday. In Jerusalem many buildings have spaces cut into the side in order to display a menorah outside. In Morocco and Algeria menorahs are hung on a hook near the doorway across from the mezuzah.

In North African and Yemenite Jewish communities, the seventh night of Chanukah is a women’s holiday to commemorate Hannah. She sacrificed seven sons rather than bow to pressure to give up Jewish practice. That night also honors Judith, who seduced and assassinated Holofernes, Nebuchadnezzar’s top general.

While Jews around the world have different traditions, we are all united by our common history and the Chanukah story that is retold each year. Chag Sameach!
Sisterhood — Helen Hauer, President

The Judaica shop will have a Hanukkah Showcase in the parking lot on December 6. Please come and see the great things available for the holidays. One of my afghans (pictured below) will be raffled off. Tickets are $10 or three for $25. Makes a great gift.

We will be having a Shabbat cooking demonstration on Zoom on January 10. Please see more info on this page. We have six chefs preparing part of a Shabbat dinner for you. There will be a booklet with all the recipes available. Hope you will all tune in to see it.

In February we will have a Zoom gardening lecture. And in March we will have a Mary Kay demonstration for you on Zoom. They both should be very interesting.

Yours in Sisterhood, Helen

Sharing Shabbat Recipes During the Time of Social Distancing

Friday night Shabbat dinner is a special time for family and friendship. It’s also quality time during which we can still enjoy each other’s company via Zoom.

Please join our next virtual Shabbat Cooking Class! We have a wonderful line-up of Sisterhood chefs who will demonstrate different parts of a Shabbat meal, including how to make challah, chicken soup for the Jewish soul, and yummy vegetables like Momma used to make and a delectable dessert.

Please email me to let me know that you will be attending Sisterhood’s Shabbat Cooking Class January 10 at 2 PM, and we will send you the Zoom link.

Lorna Bonner, Membership VP

Save the Date

A special program about native plants for a Lowcountry landscape will be presented February 11 at 11 AM by Clemson Extension Horticulture Service (more details soon). Men and women in our congregation are invited to tune in. You will learn the importance of native plants attracting wildlife and sustaining healthy ecosystems.

There are great examples of ways you can have a beautiful landscape, pollinators, and migratory songbirds, while saving money on irrigation and fertilizer and avoiding harmful pesticides.

Laura Lee Rose is the Urban Horticulture Agent for Clemson Extension in Beaufort County. She teaches the Master Gardener classes and writes gardening articles for the Island Packet, Beaufort Gazette, and Lowcountry Weekly magazine. She is a South Carolina native and has been active with the South Carolina Native Plant Society for over 20 years.

Book Club

The Sisterhood Book Club will meet January 14 at 12:30 PM on Zoom. The book is yet to be determined.

Virtual Oneg

What is a Virtual Oneg? On a typical Friday night at CBY, we would gather together after the Shabbat service to enjoy coffee and conversation (and delicious treats). Sisterhood organizes the onegs, making sure that there is a congregant, couple, family or group who would sponsor and prepare the food each week for all to enjoy, possibly in honor of an event. But these times, as we know all too well, are anything but typical.

We also know that there are people that are food insecure. Sisterhood has established a Virtual Oneg program instead of an actual oneg program. We are asking that individual congregants, couples, families, committees, chavurim or groups donate to Sisterhood the money that they would ordinarily spend to sponsor the food for an actual oneg. Sisterhood will then put together all the money that is received and donate the funds to Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger. “Inspired by Jewish values and ideals, Mazon is a national advocacy organization working to end hunger among people of all faiths in the United States and Israel.” Millions of people suffer from hunger, including low income families, active military and veterans, senior citizens, and students. You may sponsor a Virtual Oneg in honor of a person or event. The name of the person or group sponsoring the Virtual Oneg on any given week will be announced, as usual, and thanked from the bimah. If you would like to sponsor a Virtual Oneg, please send your donation to Felicia Pascal, along with the date you would like to sponsor and the event or person you are honoring.

CUSTOM ORDERS BEING TAKEN NOW!

Contact Robin Krumholz
Watch for details of NEW online ordering process from your Sisterhood Judaica Shop.
We hope by now you’ve received your letter for the Friends Campaign. As you consider making your gift, you may wish to talk to your financial advisor and see if you qualify for a QCD. A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA is a wonderful way to benefit both you and CBY. The requirements for a QCD are below.

**Qualified Charitable Distribution from IRA**

**READ IMPORTANT UPDATES ABOUT THE SECURE ACT AND THE CARES ACT**

A qualified charitable distribution (QCD), also known as an IRA charitable rollover gift, allows individuals 70 ½ or older to make an **outright gift of up to $100,000** from an IRA directly to Congregation Beth Yam (CBY) and exclude it from taxable income.

**REQUIREMENTS OF A QCD**

- The IRA account holder must be age 70 ½ or older at the time the distribution is made to CBY.
- Distributions are limited to $100,000 per individual per year and must be transferred directly from the IRA custodian to CBY.
- Distributions can be directed only from a traditional or Roth IRA (not from a retirement plan such as a 401(k), 403(b), etc.).
- Distributions cannot be made to a donor-advised fund or supporting organization (including most private foundations) or used to fund a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust.
- No goods, services, or income can be received by the donor in exchange for the gift. Donors should consult their financial adviser, as other requirements may apply to their individual circumstance.

**BENEFITS OF A QCD**

- Satisfies all or part of annual required minimum distributions (RMD) and provides a charitable giving strategy for donors who do not need the additional income.
- May be used to fulfill any outstanding pledges.
- Maximizes giving by allowing donors to give outside of the 60 percent of adjusted gross income (AGI) charitable deduction limit.
- Provides value for non-itemizers and donors who live in states that do not allow charitable deductions.
- Minimizes tax liability and can put donors at a lower threshold for Medicare premiums by reducing income.

*Donors should always work closely with their IRA custodian when requesting a direct distribution to Congregation Beth Yam.*

*This should not be considered financial advice; all decisions should be made in consultation the individual's financial advisor.*

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**Michael R. Marcus, CPA**

M.B. Taxation

8 Braemer Ct
Bluffton, SC 29910
Tel (843) 837-5256
Cell (201) 603-6287
Email ishtaxcpa@aol.com
Care Committee—JoAnne Doyle & Kathy Burnce, Co-chairs

Rabbi Bloom and the Care Committee have embarked on a new outreach to CBY congregants. We call it “Rabbi on the Road”. In partnership with the Care Committee, Rabbi Bloom has visited Hilton Head Plantation, Indigo Run, Port Royal, Palmetto Dunes, and Sun City. Rose Hill was rained out. Rabbi wants to maintain his contact with all of us, and this is a way congregants and Rabbi can touch base, even if it is just a wave from your front lawn or a short visit. The Care Committee is working to facilitate his visits to all of our communities. You will be receiving notification of designated days that Rabbi Bloom will be spending in your community. If you would like a visit, please respond by emailing JoAnne for for Hilton Head visits or Kathy for Bluffton visits, so that we can set up the times for the Rabbi to visit. We are a caring community and we thank Rabbi Bloom for making this effort to touch base with our membership.

Volunteers Are Needed To Make Phone Calls
During the current pandemic, when most of us are staying at home, we miss our family and friends. The Care Committee has recruited volunteer callers from across the congregation to call members just to keep in touch, but more volunteers are needed to make calls to congregants not yet contacted. If you would like a phone call from the Care Committee, or from Rabbi Bloom, please contact JoAnne or Kathy by email.

An Invitation To A Zoom Discussion Group
Wednesday, December 9
11:00 am to 12:30 pm
“What is Covid-19 Doing To Our Emotional Well-being? Let’s Talk About It Together.”

We have been under the cloud of COVID-19 for almost a year. Our lives have been drastically altered. Many of us are feeling the stress of all that it entails. But, we have few outlets for expressing and more completely knowing what our feelings are. Often, we just seem to be ruled by our moods. The assumption is that sharing our feelings in a small group setting will give us a clearer awareness of ourselves, a better handle on our emotions, and a sense of connection to others. The group will be offered on Wednesday, December 9, from 11:00 AM until 12:30 PM.

Your group leader is Barbara Meyer, Ed.D, Clinical Psychologist. She has special training in leading groups. She worked in private practice and in community mental health for over 35 years. She has special training in teaching relaxation skills and in treatment of trauma. She was the founder of the Western Massachusetts Trauma Recovery Network.

Suggestions for self-care will be given and a short breathing exercise for calming will be taught. If interested, contact: Barbara by email or call: 413-575-1781 by DECEMBER 1. The group will be limited to 12 members. Confidentiality will be assured.

Men’s Club – Dave Solomon, President
On November 2 Men’s Club held its first “Men’s Club Golf Free for All”. We had 21 golfers participate in the event that provided an opportunity for Men’s Club members to get together in a socially responsible outdoor gathering with other Men’s Club members. We were able to raise almost $700 that will be donated to the CBY general operating fund. Special thanks go to all Men’s Club members that played and to Richard Movshin for arranging the golf with Palmetto Hall and Gruby’s for the box lunches.
Remodel Small Tub/Shower

NEW SHOWER
- Porcelain Tile
- Rain Head
- Frameless Glass
- Clean/Modern

“T’m in the Kitchen Design business and in the 12 years of my working relationship with Jack Resnick at Group 4 Builders, I’ve had nothing but happy customers and a thorough professional experience. I’ve also hired Group 4 Builders for two home renovations. Jack is responsive, knowledgeable and above all truly cares about the projects he is a part of. We couldn’t be happier with the outcome!” Nathan Shefsick

Nathan, Jess and “Bear”

Group 4 Builders, LLC
www.hiltonheadgroup4builders.com
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.

Be Sure to Follow Us! Congregationbethyam@CBYinHiltonHead congregationbethyam https://www.facebook.com/congregationbethyam/

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