# Temple Tidings

**October 2021**

**Tishrei-Cheshvan 5782**

## Faith in Action

“*I always welcome your thoughts and comments.*” – Rabbi Bloom


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### Shabbat in the Round

Congregation Beth Yam is pleased to host “Shabbat in the Round” Friday October 15, 2021, at St. Andrew By the Sea in Bluffton, 39 Persimmon St, at 6:30 PM.

This event is open to all individuals seeking a Shabbat experience in the Lowcountry, and is free of charge.

Please contact CBY’s Director of Family Engagement, Rachel Pepin, at 843-505-1343 for any further information.

***Masks are mandatory***
Rabbi’s Message

One of the most notable features of Judaism is how we treasure community as a core value in our belief system. In fact, the sacred texts of our people give their views of what it takes to make up an ideal community. In one text from the Babylonian Talmud the sages say, “that a disciple of the wise may not live in a community which does not have the following institutions: A court that imposes fines and flogging, a charity fund collected by officials of the community, a synagogue, a public bathhouse, a physician, a scribe, a shochet (a ritual slaughterer of animals for kosher food), and a teacher of young children.” (Sanhedrin 17b)

Or how about another text which says, “a disciple of a wise person cannot live in a town that does not have a vegetable garden.” (Eruvin 55b)

These criteria reflect another world and time where Jewish communities lived in a close-knit bond of self-contained leadership for everything they needed. Today, I suppose, based upon these standards, Hilton Head would not qualify as an acceptable Jewish community.

Yet here we are after forty years!

We have a remarkable story to tell about what this community has achieved and has constructed a beautiful synagogue and a friendly and warm Jewish community. Living on this beautiful island and the mainland of Bluffton has its advantages which we all take advantage of in preserving a peaceful and enjoyable way of life.

From a Jewish perspective we all have had to make tradeoffs, too, in living in a small community. Yes, our Lowcountry seems to be bursting at the seams with new growth, especially in Bluffton and Okatie. Jews are moving in rapidly and finding new homes. It is also true that we do not have the Jewish communal infrastructure of Jewish institutions like larger communities. Many of us comes from larger cities and are used to Jewish Federations, Jewish communal educational institutions, Family service agencies, and Jewish community centers. So, we must make do the best way we can to support the Jewish community we have.

Raising money and raising spirits is part and parcel of what we must do to preserve CBY. We are on board to raise a new playground for the children of our congregation. We have fundraisers like the upcoming auction on October 21-30. SERGE is the Presenting Sponsor of this event, and we are grateful to them. Of course, the annual Friends campaign is our largest appeal for financial support. But this auction, which will be online and will have all kinds of wonderful items the committee has solicited from many contributors, can be an enormous success. Your participation in this event is critical for the future of CBY. I appeal to you to bring your generous spirit and participate. Help us enter the new year with a boost of your support and devotion to your congregation.

It is true that we do not have the Jewish infrastructure of a larger Jewish community. We at CBY make up the difference with our best effort to bring Judaism to everyone including our non-Jewish friends. We can still be proud of what we aim to achieve and the record of preserving Jewish life in the Lowcountry for over forty years. I hope I will see you at services soon and thank you for making our community a place where the wise can enjoy and celebrate our traditions and values.

Shalom,

Rabbi Brad L. Bloom MSW DD

Rabbi Brad

Just in Time for the Holidays

Online Auction

The fundraising committee would like to thank the following members for donating items to this year’s auction: Marida Bruggeman and Matt Ramsey, Renee Roth, Sheri Farbstein, Shari and John Box, Ellie Dixon, Barry Weingarten, Cary and Pat Levitt, Jim Israel, Susan Davis and Craig Cleveland, David and Penny Perlman

The fundraising committee would like to thank the following members for their fabulous masterpieces in this year’s auction: Helen Hauer, Sheri Farbstein, Mort Averack, Marcy Fine, Ed Fine, David Kurjan

The fundraising committee would like to thank the following members for donating their professional services to this year’s auction: Sheri Farbstein for her sculpture lessons, Dr. Matt Mastrorocco and Rebecca Mastrorocco on behalf of ROC Dental Group, and honorary member David Kimbell for his String Lessons.

The fundraising committee would like to thank the following members for donating use of their properties to this year’s auction: Ted David, Phyllis and Steve Napoli, Alys Blumberg, and David Wallens.

The fundraising committee would like to thank the following members for sponsoring this year’s auction:


Platinum Level: Judy and Stan Bluestone

Thank you to all of our members for supporting this year’s auction and helping to perpetuate our new mantra, #CBYSTRONG!®
Message from the President – Candy Solomon

It is time to look to the future as we rebuild CBY post-COVID. We have stayed engaged, hopeful, and resilient as we battled this virus and the havoc it brought. We have started traveling, have begun visiting family and friends, and are trying to get our lives back to normal. Life does go on.

CBY was there for you this past year, just a phone call or visit away. Rabbi Bloom, the staff, and the leadership were always available to answer your needs and offer support. Through the creative programming and services, we all stayed connected. Even though we were closed, a lot of work was done behind the scenes. It will take help from all of us to keep CBY operating at the level we look forward to and expect.

I come to you asking that you remember to honor your financial commitments to CBY. We did not raise our dues this year. Because of that fact, I am asking you to please follow through on your commitment stated on your membership dues statements. Our Treasurer is ready to work with you to come up with an agreement if needed. When you live up to your financial responsibility of membership, it allows us to continue our programming, advertising, technology enhancements, and staffing needs. If we expect to be the only full-service shul in the Lowcountry, we must meet our obligations and follow through on our responsibility to CBY.

You can also support CBY by participating in our Fundraising events. Because of the pandemic last year, many events had to be canceled. This year, our Fundraising committee is ready to get back on track. Our online auction, with many new and exciting items, is being planned for mid-October. This is an event that you will want to support, so please watch for details coming soon. You will be notified as other new events are scheduled.

It is quite easy to donate to CBY online. If you are celebrating a special or memorable occasion, simply use the dropdown menu on our website and choose the appropriate fund for your donation.

Our Friends campaign contributions go directly into our operating funds. If you have not donated before to Friends, please consider donating this year. Any amount is accepted and welcomed. This is our annual and especially important campaign.

CBY has had an Endowment Fund for nine years. This fund creates a financial reserve for special programs, emergencies, or operations. The funds are invested in balanced mutual funds. This gift can be a current contribution, a legacy gift, or both. Please consider contributing if you update your trust documents.

This past year, because you upheld your financial commitments, we were able to upgrade our technology and hire a media technician, hire our Director of Family Engagement, and replace our air conditioning system. This coming year, due to select donations and legacy gifts, we can resume working with the student cantors from HUC. Our reputation as a congregation that supports and enriches the training of student cantors has led us to have a visiting student Rabbi for the High Holy Days. Isn’t it wonderful that we can further their educational experience? This is a terrific opportunity for the students and for us!

This has been a very trying year, but we are back together. We have a financial responsibility to CBY and have a personal stake in its future. We all want CBY to be a vital Jewish center in the Lowcountry for many years. We must budget carefully, save for emergencies, and plan for the future, making sure that we are fiscally responsible. We appreciate whatever you can do, whether it be financially or through other service to CBY. We all must meet our commitment towards the future of CBY for more generations to come.

Join us in making CBY the best it can be! Shalom and keep smiling,

Candy

Corny Jokes from Candy to Put a Smile on Your Face!

- Why can't Elsa have a balloon? Because she will let it go!
- How do you make an octopus laugh? With ten-tacles!

September Board Meeting Action Items
(Abstracted from Board Minutes)

Motion: To approve the proposal presented by the Playground Committee for immediate implementation using the funds currently in the Playground subaccount. Any additional funds raised by the Playground Committee towards the total proposed estimated cost of the project could be applied. Approved (12 in favor, 0 against, 2 abstentions) ✦

Join us in making CBY the best it can be!
Sisterhood — Helen Hauer, President

I am often asked, “What does Sisterhood do?” Here are some of the activities and programs that Sisterhood provides:

- Coordinate Onegs for Friday night. As we are attending services in person, Onegs are happening. For now, it is only wine and challah. If you are interested in sponsoring an Oneg, please contact Marcy Fine at by email or (561) 389-9651.
- Manage a Judaica gift shop. Robin Krumholz is very willing to do special ordering when a request is made. Judaica shop is open on Friday evenings before services, from 5 to 5:30 PM, and on Sundays during Religious School. Randy Kurjan is available for individual shopping appointments.
- Arrange a Women’s Passover Seder for Congregation members and guests along with other luncheons during the year. We hope we will be able to again have some.
- Organize the Community Seder.
- Have a seat on the CBY Board of Directors and, therefore, participate in congregation decision making.
- Have a Book Club open to all members. If you are interested, contact Susan Sigalow at by email.
- Responsible for the maintenance of the kitchen.
- Are members of Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) and, as such, contribute to all their programs.
- Support bereaved Congregation families by supplying a food platter and assisting in Shiva.
- Raise monies for CBY, including youth activities, as well as other community charities, such as Deep Well, Hopeful Horizons, and Mazon.
- Purchase half of the prayer books used at services in our temple.
- Promote education, activities, and sisterhood for all women of the temple.
- Participate in inter-faith women’s prayer service.

What interests you? Sisterhood is here for you. I hope you will join us in Sisterhood membership and get involved in our many activities.

Yours in Sisterhood,
Helen

Book Club
Our first Sisterhood Book Club of the year will be held Thursday, October 14, at 12:30 PM on Zoom. We will be discussing “The Only Woman in the Room” by Marie Benedict. It is a fictional biography of Hedy Lamar. She was a Jewish Austrian married to a Nazi officer. She made scientific discoveries which aided the allies in World War II. She later emigrated to the U.S. and became a glamorous film star.

Onegs will continue to be challah and wine until further notice, BUT we still need participation from the congregation. Please consider sponsoring an Oneg. Please contact Marcy Fine (561-389-9651) or email me. November 13, 20, and 27 and December dates are available.
Care Committee—
JoAnne Doyle, Kathy Burnce, Maury Fradkin, Co-chairs

The Care Committee assembled and delivered 70 Rosh Hashanah gift bags filled with greetings and sweets to 70 Jewish residents living in 11 care facilities in Bluffton and Hilton Head Island.

A big Thank You goes to Michele Johnson, Sheila Margeson, Kathy Burnce, Mike Burnce, Maury Fradkin, Ray Doyle, Judy Movshin, Susan Britanisky, Mary Green, Sandy Leff, and Island Funeral (donation of Jewish Calendars) who made the event a success.

Social Action Committee—
Barbara Meyer, Chair

Much of our world feels broken and unsafe right now. My hope is that our efforts can make a small difference.

As we typically do, at the beginning of the school year we ask congregants to donate school supplies. Through the generosity of our members, we collected enough supplies for two elementary schools, one on Hilton Head and one in Bluffton. Everything was gratefully received and much needed.

Our most recent project was the High Holy Day Food Drive, held on Friday September 17, just after Yom Kippur. We filled a Deep Well van with 66 bags of food plus 5 flats of tuna. I do mean "filled the van"!

And, with the help of a friend of Kathy and Mike Burnce, who belongs to our neighboring All Saints Church, we filled the back of her truck with 67 bags of groceries plus 5 flats of tuna. She then delivered it to Bluffton Self Help. A cash donation was also made, divided in half and given to each pantry.

Our team of strong, dedicated women and men got a good workout carrying all the supplies from cars to the van and truck. We are most appreciative to everyone who gave. On that day, I thought our efforts might have made a small difference. Sadly, the need is much bigger than one full truck and one full van. As we continue to have food drives, we will count on your warm, kind hearts to help us provide for others.

There is another effort in the works that I want to share with you. Some of us on the Social Action committee also belong to the Hilton Head Martin Luther King Committee for Justice. Aware of the difficulty people are having accessing a Covid-19 vaccine, we partnered with Beaufort Jasper Comprehensive Health Services, Inc., to offer a vaccination clinic on September 25. The Boys and Girls Club of Hilton Head gave us a site on which to bring the mobile van. One of our congregants works for BJHCHS and facilitated an introduction that got the ball rolling.

In the next Tidings, I will report back about the weight of our food collection and what happened at the vax clinic. A good, healthy, peaceful year to all.
Ritual Committee—Janet Kelley, Chair

Public prayer holds a special significant value in Judaism. Thus, the importance of the minyan, ten adult Jews in the Reform tradition, is elevated. Without ten worshippers, there are certain sections of liturgy that cannot be recited. These include the K’dushah, the Kaddish, the T’filah, Bar’chu and Torah readings, including Haftarah. This emphasis on public prayer harkens back to the days of the Temple in ancient times. There, people worshipped as Israel – a distinct, cohesive people. Sacrifices and prayers were conducted in the public domain. The Rabbis declared that those “Temple-like aspects of our own prayer service, those that involve the sanctification of God’s name, be recited only in the presence of a congregation.” Today our congregations serve as a mini-Temple.

While there is a place for private prayer within the Jewish tradition, the emphasis on the communal aspect of prayer is important for the continuity of the Jewish community. Reform Rabbis have continued to stress the importance of communal prayer, while wrestling with situations when there are less than ten worshippers. There should always be an effort made to have a minyan of ten adults in order to recite certain prayers, including Kaddish, whether services take place in a synagogue or in a home.


Why CBY?

Pat and Cary Levitt

Pat and Cary have had the opportunity to travel extensively and live in different parts of the United States and the world. Their journeys have been a significant part of their Jewish faith and education. Cary’s career, as a corporate patent attorney, stimulated many moves from New York to Pennsylvania; Williamsburg, Virginia; New Jersey; Delaware; Geneva Switzerland; Missouri; Michigan; Chicago and finally Hilton Head Island. As you can see, “Jewish geography” takes on an entirely new and diverse meaning for the Levitt family.

Pat and Cary’s children are citizens of the world. Jamie is a Professor at Fresno State University, with an 18-month-old daughter. His wife is originally from China. Andrew is a patent lawyer living in Alexandria, Virginia. He lives with his girlfriend and a golden doodle dog. Kimberly recently completed a doctorate in public health, lives in Allentown, PA, has been married for two years, and is expecting a baby girl in November. Kimberly’s wife Catherine is completing her fourth year of medical school. Their connection to the Jewish faith is enlarged by their family.

Pat’s older brother is a professor at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, and Rabbi Bloom is one of his former students. Linda Bloom and Pat grew up in neighboring towns in southern New Jersey. As you can see, this is more “Jewish geography” for the Levitt family.

In the meantime, Pat and Cary have enjoyed travelling (no surprise!), babysitting their granddaughter, cycling, walking, running, scuba diving, learning to play golf, cooking, and philanthropic activities. Pat and Cary relocated from Chicago to Hilton Head Island 18 months ago. They live in Indigo Run. At the time that they relocated, they met Rabbi Bloom and immediately joined CBY. About two weeks later, the pandemic started – so they have had limited opportunities to meet other congregants.

The Levitt family has not had the typical American Jewish life; however, they have been able to learn about Jewish culture in other places and times. Pat and Cary look forward to meeting many of you.

Membership Committee—Janice Fradkin & Judy Movshin, Co-chairs

The Membership committee is pleased to welcome the following new members to CBY:

Debbie Lucca: Resident Single living in North Forest Beach
Naomi & Alan Freedman: Resident Family living in Indigo Run
Cari and Tom Lynch: Affiliates living in Bluffton
We look forward to these families getting involved in synagogue life!

Many thanks to our greeters who have welcomed members and guests to our High Holy Day services this year: Bonnie Bloom, Jon Bloom, Alys Blumberg, Lorna Bonner, Janice Fradkin, Maury Fradkin, Ellen Jenner, Jane Joseph, Robin Katz, Randy Kurjan, Sheila Margeson, Walt Margeson, Pennie Meiselman, Barbara Meyer, David Perlman, Penny Perlman, and David Schuman. And to our greeters at Shabbat services in August: Courtney Kaye, Jamie Kaye, Randy Kurjan, Pat Levitt, and Beverly and Mort Averack; arrangements by Robin Katz. Todah raba to all!

Our fall off-island “Shabbat in the Round” service (formally known as Lev Simcha) will be held on Friday, October 15, at 6:30 PM at the Saint Andrew by the Sea Methodist Church satellite building at 39 Persimmon Street in Bluffton. We are encouraging those families who live off-island to attend this unique service. As always, Shabbat will also be celebrated in our

Continued on page 8
Blessing of the Animals

Got Fur? 🐶🐱🐶 Got Feathers? 🐦 Got Fins? 🐠

Join us for CBY’s Annual Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 10, at 11:00 AM.

Sponsored by the Religious School and the Social Action Committee, this well-loved activity provides an opportunity for your dearly beloved companion animals to be blessed or remembered. You will be able to have a photograph taken with you, your family, and your pet in front of our “Noah’s Ark” background. This year, we are supporting the Hilton Head Humane Society with your donations of money and/or wish list items. They will join us under the portico with one or more adoptable furry friends. Open your heart and your home to consider adopting a shelter animal.

Please make sure your pets are leashed or in carriers.
Wear your mask!
Thank you for joining us in this Mitzvah!
CONTRIBUTIONS: We gratefully acknowledge the following from August 16-September 15

“Just in Time for the Holidays”

CBY Online Auction is coming...

OCTOBER 21 – 31, 2021

You will not want to miss your chance to bid on all of the great auction items!!

You will find gift cards for golf, restaurants and services, plus jewelry, wine, vacation homes, vacations and so much more!!

The CBY Online Auction is our major fundraiser for 2021!!
The Presenting Sponsor is: SERG Community Strong!

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS AND DONORS!!
Dear Friends,
This past year has been significantly more than difficult for everyone. We have lived under the threat of COVID-19, and have missed seeing our families and actively being with our friends. May this coming year be much better.

As we begin to usher in Rosh Hashanah, I wish you a L’Shana Tova and a sweet, and safe New Year filled with good health and happiness.

On the construction front our communities are currently bustling with construction projects. New homes are in huge demand as well as large-scale remodeling projects. Labor is tight and products for the most have longer lead times. Price increases have leveled somewhat in the last quarter, especially lumber which had more than doubled in price has come down 61%. Securing a building permit now takes longer but the town is issuing them on a regular basis. Even though these things are happening, Group 4 Builders has been able to manage the process and still deliver a great product, at a good price and on schedule.

At Group 4 Builders, we help clients fashion beautiful new living spaces by remodeling their homes. We also build new custom homes. We have a good handle on our labor and have taken steps to minimize product delays so that we can develop a reliable schedule and deliver your job on time.

Thank you for the opportunity that many of you have given me in the past. I’ve always been appreciative of doing work for you, and I look forward to being of assistance in the future.

L’Shana Tova,

Jack Resnick
To view recent live-stream videos of services go to Congregation Beth Yam | StreamSpot (https://venue.streamspot.com/c3408706)

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