Chanukah Happenings!

Night of 100 Menorot Family Shabbat

Friday, December 3
6:30 PM

Bring your own menorah, candles, and source of fire to temple. Tables will be provided and instructions given at the door. Oneg will follow services. Thank you to the Membership Committee and Sisterhood for sponsoring the oneg.

Masks are required at the service.

Annual Bluffton Chanukah Celebration

Saturday, December 4
6:00 PM

Gather your family, friends and neighbors and join us in the heart of Old Town Bluffton at Dubois Park for live music and singing of our favorite Chanukah tunes. We’ll be serving latkes, sufganiyot and gelt to go along with all the fun!

No RSVP’s needed.
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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 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/

The latest edition of the CBY Family Directories are located in the foyer. Please remember to pick up your copy.
Rabbi’s Message

Most, if not all, practicing Jews know what a dreidel is. It is a spinning top containing four sides with the Hebrew letters Nun, Gimbel, Hay, and Shin. We say it means ‘A great miracle happened there.’ With the advent of the modern state of Israel, the Israelis changed the dreidels, more specifically, the last letter from shin to pey. The letter pey forms the word po which means here. So now the famous phrase says, ‘A Great Miracle happened here (in Israel)!’ All of this relates back to the famous and time-honored story associated with Chanukah in the Book of Maccabees about the menorah in the Holy Temple that had only one night’s oil left. Of course, the legend is that the menorah in the temple lasted eight nights.

There are other theories about the history of the dreidel. One in particular was that Jews used the dreidel to fool the ancient Greeks, should they come upon scholars studying Torah, which was prohibited by them during their occupation of Judea in 165 BCE.

One interpretation said the Hebrew numerology which means that every letter in the Hebrew alphabet has a number associated with it. If you combine nun, gimel, hey, and shin, it equals the same number (358) that comprises the word mashiach or messiah. Still others say that the four letters represent the four nations that attempted to destroy the Jews in ancient times.

Scholars say that the dreidel game actually came from England and Ireland and a game called Totum or Teetotum, which comes from the Latin and means “all.” This game was played beginning in the 16th century. T equals take all; H equals Half, P equals put down; and N equals Nothing. The theory goes that the Jewish tradition of playing dreidel originated from the German version of Totum.

In addition, centuries later, when modern Hebrew was created, the dreidel was renamed as Sevivon. Rabbi David Golinkin points out the irony of celebrating a game that came from a non-Jewish tradition on a holiday that celebrates resistance to cultural assimilation. He points out that there is big difference between imitating non-Jewish games and worshipping idols. Remember—the Greeks turned Jerusalem’s Holy Temple into a Greek shrine of the Gods.

What is also interesting is “The Dreidel Song” itself, which we all know how to sing. It turns out that this famous song “I Have A Little Dreidel” was written by the American composer Samuel Grossman (originally Goldfarb). Grossman’s brother, Israel Goldfarb, wrote the famous melody to Shalom Aleichem back in 1910. A few years ago, a new album was released by the contemporary composer Craig Taubman with these brothers’ songs. The Goldfarb brothers were composers in the American Yiddish theater. In the 1920s Samuel Goldfarb wrote “I Have A Little Dreidel.” The song did not catch on until the 1950s when Chanukah was becoming a commercial phenomenon in American culture.

So, we see how the traditions and stories of Chanukah started in the Book of Maccabees and progressed through the Talmud as well as added customs adopted from the larger culture in Medieval Europe, which contributed to how we celebrate Chanukah today.

Chanukah is a tapestry of traditions and rituals that we created, borrowed, and adapted from many countries which enriches us today. I hope you will join us as we celebrate on December 3 at the Temple for the Night of a Hundred Menorot and the Bluffton celebration of Chanukah on December 4. We celebrated a community wide event at Shelter Cove on November 28. Chanukah is a wonderful time for the Jewish community to come out in public and celebrate with all our songs and customs about the story of our determination to overcome the forces that would have destroyed us. We can celebrate the ancient stories and the ones over history that have enlightened us and inspired us to keep our identity strong today.

Shalom,

Rabbi Brad L. Bloom MSW DD

November Board Meeting Action Items

(Abstracted from Board Minutes)

1. Staff Holiday Gifts. Motion: to award end of year thank you gifts as proposed by the BoD. (D. Katz, J. Press). Motion passed.
2. Sound System Proposal. The contractor (Custom Audio Visual) has estimated costs for a new sound system will be $35,800. We will need to place a 70% deposit (around $25,000). A second bid from Sound Stage (in Savannah) estimated $50,000, which Candy rejected. The proposed system will be state of the art and expandable. Maybe we should consider borrowing some of the funds to do this and other projects. Motion: To accept the motion to go forward with the proposal from Custom Audio-Visual for $35,800. (Bruggeman/F. Roth) Motion Passed.
3. Membership. To elect seven new members (see Membership Report (Fradkin/various seconders). Motions passed. ✗
Message from the President — Candy Solomon

Shalom CBY, Happy Chanukah to all! We are all in the midst of celebrating Chanukah this year with our families and friends. It is exciting to be physically together during our eight days of celebration as we continue many of our traditions that we had to put on hold last year.

Chanukah, the festival of lights, began on Sunday, November 28. CBY celebrated the holiday with a candle lighting event at Shelter Cove on that evening. Our CBY annual Night of 100 Menorot will be celebrated on Friday, December 3, and our Chanukah celebration in Bluffton will be on Saturday, December 4.

Growing up in our household, I remember my mom making lots and lots of latkes. We would light the candles every night. My sister and I would choose the colored candles to put in the menorah each night. I still choose candles wisely to this day! My mom would sing the prayers and we would join in. My dad not so much! This tradition has been carried over to my grandkids when they call us each night, and I sing the prayers as they light the candles at their homes. Chocolate gelt remains a favorite as it did for my sister and me. These traditions live on.

Chanukah is our festival of rededication. It’s a time to commit oneself again. This has meaning for us, especially this year, as we rededicate ourselves to CBY. It’s a time to come to services, join committees, volunteer for activities, strengthen friendships, and start anew. It’s a time to become more active and voice your opinions. It’s a second chance for all of us. We need your participation, just as you need us.

Keep the family traditions alive as you celebrate Chanukah by eating latkes and sufganiyot, singing songs, and playing dreidel. Share stories with your children and grandchildren about the ways you celebrated the holiday when you were growing up. Make new memories and enjoy this time together.

Shalom and Keep Smiling,

Candy

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

➢ What do cakes and baseball have in common? They both need a batter!
➢ What gets wetter the more it dries? A towel!

An Update About CBY’s Face Mask Requirement

The Island Packet recently reported that the coronavirus transmission rates have reached “moderate” levels in Beaufort and Jasper Counties according to CDC data. According to the paper, “Federal health officials say that fully vaccinated people in Beaufort and Jasper counties do not have to wear face masks in indoor public places.” The CDC recommends that unvaccinated people in Beaufort and Jasper counties wear face coverings in indoor retail settings and restaurants. However, the newspaper goes on to suggest that COVID19 safety protocols should not be discarded. They note that Dr. Jane Kelly, South Carolina’s Assistant State Epidemiologist, has issued a warning that the State of South Carolina may experience a surge in COVID19 infections during the 2021 holiday season. In effect, she has described COVID19 as having a “roller-coaster up-and-down cycling” pattern, suggesting the likelihood that Beaufort and Jasper Counties may still see higher COVID19 infection rates in the near future.

Given COVID19’s unpredictability, and the likelihood that COVID19 may pose a serious health threat during and after the holidays, CBY will continue to require that masks be worn by anyone entering the synagogue, and that all individuals provide proof of their COVID19 vaccinations.

We look forward to the time when masks are no longer needed, and we will notify you as soon as that is safe to do.

Candy Solomon                Joel Greene
President                  Chair, COVID19 Task Force
Sisterhood — Helen Hauer, President

I was looking through the WRJ book Covenant of the Generations, and a poem I read touched me. I would like to quote it for you here:

“Being Part of a Sacred Community
Being part of this special sacred group of women …
Allows me to share ideas that sustain and promote the ideals of sisterhood
In the midst of women in my community.

I feel proud … I am blessed … I am a better woman
Because of these women who are my friends.
I have an opportunity to encourage others to be the best they can be as our greater group builds connections.

I feel the strength and bonds ow women that link me to the generations before and yet to be.
I feel at one with the matriarchs.
Sisterhood gives me a sense of continuity to all the sisters who have led me to this place in this time.
I am fortunate to call these women sisters.
I am in awe of their commitments.
I am grateful for this sense of family, Jewish family.
This special, sacred group of women teaches me about myself; they inspire me to be the best I can be.
Together, we build mitzvah and memory and the future.”

Welcome Back to Sisterhood
Sisterhood is now instituting monthly meetings featuring interesting speakers, fun activities, and, of course, kibbitzing and food. Our first meeting, Welcome Back to Sisterhood, will be at CBY on Thursday, December 2, at 10:00 AM. We are excited to present our very own Ronnie Liebowitz, who will speak about the history of quilting in America. She will discuss the background of her vintage quilts and display her own unique quilts. Be sure to RSVP to Randy Kurjan by email. ♡

We are planning an in-person “Welcome Back to Sisterhood” program on Dec. 2. Also, our Book Club will meet in person on Dec. 15 at the Port Royal Golf Clubhouse for lunch and discussion. Hope you have a Happy Hanukkah. Yours in Sisterhood,
Helen ♡

Care Committee—
JoAnne Doyle, Kathy Burnce, Maury Fradkin , Co-chairs

Pastoral Visits — Student Cantor Justin Callis has resumed monthly pastoral visits to long term care facilities. A visit can be requested for you or someone you know by contacting Maury Fradkin by email.

Mi Shebeirach List — Be our eyes and ears. If you hear of a congregant in need of healing prayers, please let Rabbi Bloom, the office, or a member of the Care Committee know.

Rabbi on The Road Program
Now is the time to connect with Rabbi Bloom and your CBY community. We care about you. Have something on your mind?? This is a great opportunity for new members. Never had a visit from Rabbi Bloom? Call or email today to schedule your time with Rabbi Bloom! Outside visits are available! Rabbi Bloom is fully vaccinated including a booster!
In Hilton Head Island contact JoAnne Doyle by email.
In Bluffton contact Kathy Burnce by email. ♡
Ritual Committee—Janet Kelley, Chair

Every now and then someone asks, “What does the Ritual Committee do?” It is difficult to list all the responsibilities the members of the Ritual Committee take on. The Ritual Committee works closely with the Rabbi to determine how ritual practices are implemented at CBY. This is no easy task in a congregation in which members come from diverse Jewish backgrounds.

Ritual Committee members are involved in determining logistics for services. The members are also the backbone of the services, often the first to arrive on a Friday night to turn on the menorah in the sanctuary and hallway. They set up ritual items prior to the services, such as the Shabbat candles, Kiddush cup of wine, Havdallah candles, and spice box. Carefully cleaning and putting away items after services is important, as well.

Ritual members switch out the prayer books needed for the High Holy Days. They polish the silver ornaments that adorn the Torah scrolls. They check on the supply of items such as kippot, tallit, candles and wine.

On behalf of the Rabbi, the members make calls to offer honors for services and then communicate the names of those accepting honors to the staff.

The food at the Hot Topic Shabbat is provided by the Ritual Committee. Qualified members of the Ritual Committee lead the service in the Rabbi’s absence.

These are some, but certainly not all, of the responsibilities. A huge thank you goes to those serving on the Ritual Committee: Judy Bluestone, Shari Box, Maury Fradkin, Michael Kalafer, Robin Katz, Alan Krumholz, David Kurjan, Randy Kurjan, Sheila Margeson, Walt Margeson and Dave Solomon.

Help For Afghani Refugees

There are currently hundreds of Afghani refugees who have been brought to safe havens here in the United States. The costs of helping these people, who are American citizens, green card holders, or who are here under SIV (Special Immigration Visas) is considerable. The Social Action Committee seeks the congregation’s help in supporting the efforts of HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society), which has been “Helping the Stranger” for many decades.

The Social Action Committee is challenging our congregants to match the $500 pledge it will make to this effort. Please send whatever you can to support this effort; make out your check to CBY and earmark it in the “notes” section for HIAS. Many of these individuals risked their own lives to help and protect our military personnel in Afghanistan. Now we have a chance to thank them and to help them resettle in our country.

Thank you.
**Social Action Committee—Barbara Meyer, Chair**

As I write this report, I am aware of the approaching Chanukah season. As I think about the tradition of the oil that lasted days beyond what it looked like, I am thinking of all the light that our congregants have brought to those who need warm clothing.

Last Sunday, the social action team held the warm clothing drive. What we received went beyond anything we had hoped for. You gave and gave. We had mountains of all sizes of items to sort and organize and distribute.

Let me share where this bounty went. Some went to Family Promise to clothe each member currently being hosted, adults and children. A delightful parcel of pink hats and gloves went to the Children’s Center. The Sandalwood Community received warm clothes. A friend who knows the needs of some of the Hispanic community was able to fill the rear of a truck. Another truck drove away with its bed full, taking it to a church in Yamasee.

While our team is strong and hard-working, we also had the benefit of Cary Levitt’s muscle and kindness to help us with lifting and carrying. And we had the help of Cora Kaye, who worked beside us. She chose to work with us for her Bat Mitzvah project. Additionally, she was tasked with finding children’s sizes. She did just that, a large box full!

At this time of year, our committee reaches to the tzedakah fund. Due to COVID-19, local organizations have been strained to provide for those out of work, homeless and experiencing food insecurity. Our response has been to keep our help local. We have chosen to support the following organizations: Deep Well, Family Promise, Bluffton Self Help, The Children’s Center and Bluffton Community Soup Kitchen.

Our congregants make “giving” possible. We are grateful to you. Happy Chanukah to all.

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**Why Chavurah**

Hello, this is Shari Box, the “unofficial” leader of 7@7. There were 14 now there are 16 of us.

We stayed very connected through 2020 with Trivia via Zoom every Sunday night at 7:00pm, hence the name 7@7. We were so committed that even when half of us packed up houses, either ours or our parents, we would join in for Zoom trivia for a break!

We had outdoor gatherings at Jarvis Park, and each other’s homes to celebrate milestones, Jewish and National holidays, Memorial Day and July 4th, and each other.

Now that we are all vaccinated, we have had a few indoor events as well (Break Fast). We have done potluck and even catered events.

We recognize that now that members are back to traveling, having visitors, and realizing that “sitting at home” is no longer a necessity, we need to make time for our group gatherings. We have a calendar set up until the end of the year.

We share stories about our families, parents, dogs and children, as well as a genuine concern for each other. Some members bike and play golf together.

We have suggested the idea of a trip to Mickve Israel in Savannah together.

We represent and hold several committee and board positions at CBY, so we do our best to go to services together. We did a Rosh Hashanah outdoor lunch at Frankie Bones to celebrate the New Year.

We have plans for a Big CBY Auction Dinner, a November get together, and a Chanukah and Havdalah Party!

We have created friendships through the common denominator of Judaism and CBY.

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Hi Chavurahers – Our Chavurah, The Kugel Kids, has been meeting almost every month all through 2020 and 2021. Now we are meeting in person at one of our homes, the 3rd Sunday of each month, for lunch, brunch or tea time, with lively discussions (what do you remember most about your mother/father or grandparents; what one city in the world made the biggest impression on you; what do you remember most about your time in your synagogue as a youth (12 & under); what were you doing 10 years ago (2011) that was so memorable; who is the one person that gave the best piece of advice; and more.

Our lively group includes Lorna Bonner/Joel Greene, Judi/Marty Katz, Helen Hauer, Ed/Marcy Fine, Arlene Katz, Stan/Sheila Gefen, Sheri Farbstein/Howard Rothchild. We really enjoy getting together, now in person, at a home. — Howard Rothchild

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**The Kugel Kids**

Having a brunch at Ed and Marcy Fine’s house. Discussion topic: Our recollection of our early days at the synagogue of our youth.
Shabbat in the Round
Bluffton • November 2021
Oneg following service with Student Cantor Justin Callis
Membership Committee—Janice Fradkin & Judy Movshin, Co-chairs

Connection. Relationship. Attachment. Friendship. All these words reflect the bond that grows between members at CBY. Especially after the isolation that COVID has brought to all of us, we are ready now to be together, share interests, and hang out with friends…old and new.

To that end, new programming is starting! All women members are invited to get involved with “Nosh, Schmooze, & More,” a group open to all CBY women looking for connection and fun things to do in groups large and small. Many thanks to Kim Shapiro and Pat Levitt who created this program with all of us in mind! (See accompanying article.)

An interest survey has been sent to every member - man and woman - to gauge your interests and find other members to share those activities and passions. From walking to science discussions and sharing holidays, there is an interest group for you! Expect a notification this month letting you know of like-minded members for group formation.

Another “Shabbat in the Round” was held in Bluffton on November 12 with lots of enthusiastic CBYers taking part. The mood was congenial, the informal conversation relevant, and the Torah study meaningful as we shared the beauty of Shabbat together. Thanks to Rachel Pepin, Director of Family Engagement, for all her efforts, both on the bimah and off.

We welcome new members:
☆ Warren Zelman, resident single from New York living in Bluffton
☆ Dana and Ofer Weiss, resident family living in Bluffton
☆ Roni and Alan Wolk, affiliates from Atlanta living in Hilton Head
☆ Carl Hammer, resident single from Philadelphia living in Sun City
☆ Sally and David Miskit, resident family living in Hilton Head
☆ Sarah Howard, resident single living in Bluffton
☆ Stuart and Kelly Gaynes, resident family from Kansas City living in Hilton Head

Happy to have you all as members of our CBY family!

Many thanks to our Shabbat greeters for October and November: Alys Blumberg and Joel Aronson, Shari and Jon Box, Janice and Maury Fradkin, Robin Katz, Randy and David Kurjan, Ellyn Levin, Pat Levitt, Debbie Lucca, Jeremy and Jayden Press, and Kim Shapiro.

Please join us at the Chanukah menorah lighting in DuBose Park, Old Town Bluffton on Saturday, December 4 at 6:00 PM. Latkes, sufganiyot, music, and fun for all!

Chag Chanukah Sameach from the Membership Committee! ☆

Nosh, Schmooze & More

Cooler temps didn’t stop the Ladies of CBY from getting together to kick-off “Nosh, Schmooze & More” at two luncheons, first on October 27 at Frankie Bones on Hilton Head, the second on November 9 at the Mellow Mushroom in Bluffton.

“Nosh, Schmooze & More” is an offshoot of the Membership Committee; it provides the women of CBY an opportunity to come together and meet new people while participating in activities they enjoy.

Groups established so far include:
☆ Knitting
☆ Dog walking/socializing
☆ Mexican Train (Dominos)
☆ Mahjong
☆ Out to Lunch
☆ Coffee, Tea & Kibbitz
☆ Wine & Watercolor

For more information contact Pat Levitt or Kim Shapiro by email. ☆
Friends Campaign – Kim Shapiro, Chair
Fundraising Committee – Dave Solomon, Chair

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
A qualified charitable distribution (QCD), also known as an IRA charitable rollover gift, allows individuals 70½ 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 70½ 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 nonitemizers 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.
CBY Religious School Students, Elliott Kennedy and Cora Kaye practicing lighting the Chanukiah

Shabbat Morning Service with Cantor Lisa Levine
DEBBI & MARK KAJANO
WATER DAMAGE LED TO BRAND NEW KITCHEN

“Back in April, our entire house flooded and Jack stepped in immediately to help us get everything back in order. He assessed the damage, got multiple contractors to come out and bid the job, and scheduled each of them to work around our needs. Although some supplies were delayed due to supply chain issues, he updated us on the arrival dates and scheduled contractors in advance to minimize delays. We are grateful that Jack has such good relationships with his subcontractors that they will postpone other work in order to get his jobs done first. If you’re looking for a fair, honest, and organized contractor, Jack is the man to call”.

Debbi and Mark Kajano

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

CALL US TO PLAN YOUR REMODEL*ADDITION*or NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION
To view recent live-stream videos of services go to Congregation Beth Yam | StreamSpot (https://venue.streamspot.com/c3408706)

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