HAPPY PURIM

Come to temple – join in the celebration!

Purim Carnival
Sunday, March 13 12:00 PM

Purim Megillah Reading
Wednesday, March 16 6:00 PM

Purim Family Shabbat Service
with Student Cantor Sierra Fox
Friday, March 18 6:30 PM

See page 7 for more details about Purim fun!!!
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**Student Cantor Sierra Fox**

- **Friday, March 18, 6:30 PM:** Purim Family Shabbat Service
- **Saturday, March 19, 10:00 AM:** Torah Study
- **Friday, April 1, 6:00 PM:** Kabbalat Shabbat Service
- **Saturday, April 2, 10:00 AM:** Torah Study
- **Saturday, April 2, 7:00 PM:** in Concert w/ CBY Choir

**Concert Series 2022—Sunday’s at 4PM**

Once again this year David Kimbell will host a small series of concerts at CBY. Join us, this year in the sanctuary as well as online, for some musical diversions. Concerts are free and open to all CBY members.

**March 27—Adriana and Friends**

Our own Adriana Urato entertains us once again. Are we lucky or what? Scenes from movies.

**May 29—TBA**
Rabbi’s Message

I have received quite a few questions recently regarding an old tradition for Purim. “Rabbi, is it true that one is allowed to get drunk on Purim?” Another person asked, “Rabbi, I heard that we can drink to the point that we can’t tell the difference between Haman and Mordecai!” So let me clarify this for the congregation. It is written in the Code of Jewish Law, otherwise known as the Shulchan Aruch, the following: “On Purim a person should drink until he knows not the difference between ‘Cursed be Haman’ and ‘Blessed be Mordecai.’”

One of the most famous medieval commentators, Rabbi Moses Isserles, explained the meaning of this text from Jewish law. “Some authorities say that it is not necessary to get as drunk as all that, but merely to drink more than one’s normal allowance, so that he may fall asleep and, because he is asleep, not know the difference between ‘Cursed be Haman’ and ‘Blessed be Mordecai.’”

Rabbi Isserles went on to explain that it is immaterial if he drinks a little or a lot, as long as his thoughts are directed towards God.

The Rabbis say that this odd custom originated from the Book of Esther. “Mordecai himself said that these days should be celebrated as yemeni mishteh v’simchah, days of drinking and rejoicing” (Esther 9:22).

Let’s not forget that Purim is not the only holiday when we are told to drink. Passover requires us to drink four cups of wine, but those four cups are symbolic expressions of ways that God caused our redemption. On Purim, on the other hand, drinking liquor is not symbolic but strictly functional.

In the Talmud it is written, “Rava said: “It is one’s duty to make oneself fragrant (with wine) on Purim until one cannot tell the difference between ‘Cursed be Haman’ and ‘Blessed be Mordecai.’” (Babylonian Talmud Megillah 7b)

The Rabbis focus on the word fragrant or l’evasurei (to make fragrant). This word comes from the root besamim or spices like we use on Havdalah to remember the Sabbath. The Rabbis point out that most people assume it means become completely drunk. Maimonides wrote that drinking really meant, “One should eat meat and prepare a nice a meal as one can afford and drink wine until one becomes drunk and falls asleep.”

More modern commentators say, “The tradition is to get drunk to remember the miracle of Purim and the salvation of the Jews. However, if one knows oneself, and is likely to neglect the performance of a mitzvah such as washing one’s hands before eating bread or making a blessing over eating food or that one might forget to pray in a service or might act in a lightheaded way, it is better not to get drunk.”

I think it is fair to say that with all these passages from the Talmud and Jewish law, the force of the tradition, at least in modern times, is not to get drunk at all. There are just too many risks with driving alone which can cause us to endanger ourselves and others or let alone someone driving home from a Purim service. Let’s say this - that if we continue to practice this custom and get a bit inebriated, then at least make sure that there is a designated driver. Remember, we celebrate the miracle of Purim, but with cars we cannot count on a miracle to protect us.

Hag Purim sameah

Rabbi Brad Bloom

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.

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

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

Stronger Together

Since the beginning of the pandemic Rabbi Bloom has been visiting congregants in an effort to connect. Rabbi is extremely careful and has been fully vaccinated and boosted and wears a mask. He has meet with people in their yard, garage, on patios as well as inside the home.

If you are not yet ready for a personal visit to your home, he’s willing to do a Zoom meeting, phone call or

you are welcome to meet him in his study at temple. His main concern is to simply see how his congregants are doing.

Are you interested in scheduling a visit with Rabbi Bloom? Contact the office by phone, 843-689-2179, or by email, bethyam@aol.com.
Message from the President – Candy Solomon

Shalom CBY,

March is upon us. Growing up in Ohio and then raising our family in Michigan, I remember the month of March fondly. The snow would be melting, the gray days would start to fade, and the sun would begin to shine again. The cold winds would turn slightly warmer, and the smell of spring would be in the air. Winter coats would be tossed aside for spring jackets. We would try to spot the first robin that would signify the first sign of spring. It was, and still is, the reawakening of nature.

As a teacher, March would signify the final push to teach my students the last bits of information that they would need before the end of year testing. Keeping them focused and attentive as the weather turned warmer was always a challenge. There were many times that we would go outside to enjoy the weather while teaching. Adapting and using creativity were always necessary skills at this time of year.

At CBY we have had to adapt and be creative the past two years. It is amazing how many times we have had to think “out of the box” to come up with solutions to problems. Trying to keep the congregation safe was always the priority and led to making decisions that were not always easy. A case in point was how to have in-person services safely for the High Holy Days. When many congregants signed up for in-person services, we had to pivot and offer double services to accommodate the high numbers of reservations. Rabbi, David Kimbell, Joel Greene, Jeremy Press, and the staff spent many hours reworking the service, the music, the honors, and all the logistics. It was not an easy task, but it was successful and appreciated by the congregation. Members had the choice to come to in-person services or to watch from home. Everyone’s needs were met.

We have all shown that we can rise up and meet the challenges that come before us. We meet problems head on and aren’t afraid to tackle the tough issues. We have worked harder than ever before during this pandemic. A lot has gone on behind the scenes to keep CBY moving forward. The staff has had to keep us on the right track by coming up with creative solutions to problems. Rabbi Bloom has spent countless hours “on the road” and at the hospitals visiting members who needed spiritual guidance and healing during this unprecedented situation. Valerie Seldes and the Religious School teachers worked collaboratively to keep the school children on target. The Board has had to adapt to constantly changing information to better serve the membership and keep us safe and secure. And you, the membership, have stuck with us through it all, and I thank you for that. CBY continues to be strong, moving forward as one.

Enjoy the warm weather, go to the beach, and take time to smell the flowers of spring.

Shalom and Keep Smiling,

Candy

Yom HaShoah

Please join us for our annual Holocaust Remembrance program — Yom HaShoah — to be held this year on Sunday, April 24, at 1:00 PM in the CBY sanctuary. Our focus will be on the bravery of the “Paper Brigade of Vilna,” authors and poets turned partisans who, under the watchful eye of the Nazis, were able to smuggle out Jewish literary treasures intended for display in Germany after the demise of the Jewish people. The program will feature readings, poetry, and music of that time and place.

If you have a family member in the area or are acquainted with a survivor or child or grandchild of a survivor who would like to attend our program and participate in the honorary processional, please email their contact information to Janice Fradkin so that they may be invited.

Never Forget. Never Again.
Care Committee—
JoAnne Doyle, Kathy Burnce, Maury Fradkin, Co-chairs

Pastoral Visits
CBY is hosting cantorial student Sierra Fox this spring. Rabbi Bloom expects each of our cantorial students to make pastoral care visits in order to gain experience with the process. Singing and good conversation means enjoyable visits for everyone involved. The Care Committee will organize pastoral care visits with Sierra and members in their homes as well as small groups residing in care facilities soon, depending on Covid. If you would like to invite Sierra to your home/outside area for a visit, please contact 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 Visits
The CBY office is now scheduling the Rabbi on the Road visits. If you would like a visit, please contact Gail Froomkin at 843-689-2178.

Social Action Committee—
Barbara Meyer, Chair

How lucky were we that on Thursday, January 20, the day of our most recent food drive, the weather was warm and sunny. Trucks from Deep Well and Bluffton Self Help parked in our CBY driveway to receive gifts from our congregants. We were able to collect a total of 86 grocery bags plus four large flats of canned tuna. All this bounty weighed in at approximately 840 pounds! We received cash donations as well. Our hearts are warmed by your generosity.

As always, the two food pantries were grateful that CBY helped keep their shelves full. Our team is fully aware that this year, especially, we have made many requests for food. The need is ever-present, in part due to Covid-19. I just finished reading a report that you might be interested in about food insecurity. The Greater Island Council of Hilton Head and Bluffton produced a document in June 2021 on this topic. One interesting quote was from our Councilman, Alex Brown, who stated “while the Beaufort County Food Insecure population is about 10%, if you adjust the number to focus on the most vulnerable population, the number is likely 25%”. For more information, you can find the complete report at www.greaterislandislandcouncil.com.

The committee is talking about programs we might have in 2022. Hopefully, Covid-19 will be in our rear-view mirrors and, vaccinated and boosted, we can gather in person. Some of our ideas include the rise of anti-Semitism, LGBTQ-related matters (some of us have transgender grandchildren) and mind-body stress reduction skills.

We welcome any ideas you want to add.

Respectfully,
Barbara Meyer, Chair
Why CBY?

The Bruggemans – Marida, Ella, and Cooper

My children and I became members of the CBY family in October of 2014, though we had been participating in family events and attending “Tot Shabbats” for about two years by that time. When my daughter Ella was born, I realized that the distance that I had always experienced from my Jewish roots was no longer something I was comfortable with. Since I had not been raised Jewish, I relied heavily on the faithful support and guidance from Rabbi Bloom when we joined CBY. Ella, Cooper, and I haven’t looked back! All these years later, Ella has become a Bat Mitzvah at CBY and my son, Cooper, will begin his studies this spring. I’ve participated as a volunteer on many committees and am now a proud member of the CBY Board. An area of particular interest to me is the role Jewish camping has in our children’s sense of their Jewish identity. Ella attended Camp Coleman for many years, and Cooper will be heading up to Coleman for the first time this summer. To help support our religious school families, I have taken on the task of heading up our Camp Scholarship program. I welcome any families who are interested in learning more about the experiences my children have had at camp to reach out!

Ritual Committee—Janet Kelley, Chair

Kavanah: Intention and Purpose

Kavanah is Hebrew for intention or direction. When applied to prayer, it has the meaning of not praying with just rote intonations or just going through the motions. Instead, it is meant for the act of prayer to be something that comes from inward, with concentration. Kavanah also applies to other mitzvot. One must have intention in performing a mitzvah. Abraham Joshua Heschel, a leading theologian and philosopher, taught Jewish mysticism at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. He said that performing a mitzvah without kavanah is inadequate because it doesn’t affect the doer. He felt the purpose of Jewish practice was transformation of the soul. So, while the effect of the mitzvah may be positive for the world, without kavanah, the doer has not been transformed.

Reform Jewish worship strives for a balance between keva, fixed times and liturgy, with kavanah, the inwardness and intention. So come join us for services on a Friday night. Bring your kavanah and let us worship together as a Jewish community. ✡
To add to the fun there will be a costume contest! Get your friends together…Chavurah, singles group, interest groups, etc. and dress up…singing, dancing, crazy fun is also welcome!! There will be a group category as well as individual/couple category!!

Matanot La-evyonim (Gifts to the needy)
Please help support our CBY Purim mitzvot! Honoring and supporting woman such as the heroic Queen Esther!

On Wednesday evening, March 16, and Friday, March 18, we will collect feminine products, paper products: paper towels, paper plates, toilet tissue, facial tissues, napkins, etc. to donate to Hopeful Horizons. A children’s advocacy, domestic violence and rape crisis center. Serving Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties.
(Masks and proof of vaccination required) *

PURIM SERVICE

Wednesday, March 16 @ 6:00p.m.
Please join us for a traditional Megillah reading and service as well as some traditional fun!

Come In Costume!

Peace of Mind Seminar

We invite you to learn how planning for your final wishes may shield your family from unnecessary emotional and financial burden. Join us for a complimentary lunch and learn more about pre-arrangements, veteran benefits, burials, and more. Please RSVP by March 17; call (843) 242-7442 to reserve your spot.

Thursday, March 24
11:30am

WE WILL DISCUSS
• Burials
• Traditional Funerals
• Veteran Benefits
• Payment Plans
• Pre-arrangements
**Contributions:** We gratefully acknowledge the following from January 16 - February 15:

### Cemetery Committee – Felicia Roth, Chair

**Plots for Sale**

CBY members in good financial standing are eligible to purchase plots in CBY Gardens at Six Oaks Cemetery.

Interested parties may contact Six Oaks or any members who wish to resell their interests. Please also contact Cemetery Chair Felicia Roth to facilitate arrangements between CBY and Six Oaks. Currently available for resale:

- Four plots at sale price. Contact Linda Newport at LNewp26316@aol.com or at 678-488-1657.

### Music Committee – Alan Krumholz

I never thought I had a voice good enough to sing in a choir, but after I had chanted an Aliyah blessing one Shabbat, David Kimbell took note, and asked me if I would be interested in joining. He said they were very much in need of another tenor for the upcoming High Holy Days, so I promised him I’d give it a try. To my surprise, I really enjoyed it, and now I’ve become a regular member of the team, adding harmony to our CBY Services several times per year. It’s not as difficult as I thought, and it’s fun to explore new tunes! Joining the Choir has made a difference in my enjoyment of our CBY services, even when the choir isn’t singing! It has also set an example for the youth that I so enjoy tutoring.

Well, our CBY Choir is once again in search of more voices to join the ranks. Don’t just assume you are not a good enough singer! If you enjoy having music in our services, then please give it a try, and let David Kimbell fill you in on the details. After all, look at how wrong I was! If you are interested, let me or David Kimbell know as soon as feasible.

Thank you for considering the possibility!

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

Interest groups are forming at CBY: build community, meet new friends, and have fun doing it! Twenty-three groups have been identified. Please contact Janice Fradkin by email for more information and to get involved.

Join us on Friday evening, March 4, as we welcome Shabbat with services at the Rotary Community Center in Oscar Frazier Park (11 Recreation Court) in Bluffton. We begin at 6:30 PM with “Shabbat in the Round” and an oneg to follow.

Many thanks to our Shabbat greeters during February: Alys Blumberg and Joel Aronson, Lorna Bonner and Joel Greene, JoAnne and Ray Doyle, Janice and Maury Fradkin, and Robin and David Katz.

We welcome these new members to CBY:

- Abby & Kurt Suckow, Resident Family, in Hilton Head Plantation from Toledo, Ohio
- Linda & Ron Eelsenbaumer, Affiliates, from Arlington Texas

### Mah Jongg Group

Join us as the “Nosh, Schmooze & More” and the CBY Membership Mah Jongg Group kicks off 2022!

Enjoy fun and friendship, meeting and re-connecting with friends. All Mah Jongg skill levels welcome. Please note skill levels will be mixed per table through random assigned seating. Tuesday, March 15, 1 PM to 3 PM at Congregation Beth Yam social hall. First to sign up, first served! Limited space—waiting list will be established.

**Please note there will be no betting.** RSVP by email or text to Ellyn Levin at 215-740-9429.

Please confirm if you can bring a Mahjongg set. Masks are required.

Look forward to an enjoyable afternoon with this new group!
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)

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

2021/2022 Board of Directors

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Janice Fradkin Corresponding Secretary
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Rabbi Brad L. Bloom
Sisterhood President, Helen Hauer
Men’s Club President, Dave Solomon

*Deceased