



Congregation Beth El

A seasonal, egalitarian synagogue affiliated with the Conservative Movement

Founded in 1947

32 Gorton Avenue • Old Colony Beach • Old Lyme, CT • 06371

website: www.synagogueoldlyme.org

Kislev/Tevet 5783

December 2022

President

Lisa Semel
917-913-9722
lisasemel@gmail.com

VP Membership

Brian Cutler
beachshulmembership@gmail.com

Treasurer

Rick Hyne
richard.hyne@gmail.com

Recording Secretary

Andrea Fenton
fentonland2@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary/ Newsletter/Ritual

Sharon Waxenbaum
shanaaviv@gmail.com

Board of Directors

Ira Feigenbaum
Mindy Jason - Tree of Life
Anita Kaplowitz
Shari Most
Peter Patten - Tzedakah boxes
Ruth Spitz - Youth Services
BJ Diefenbacher - IPP

Past Presidents

Alex Rappaport*
Joseph Bernstein*
Jacob Gottlieb*
Allen Rosenberg*
Maurice Wallet*
Arthur Guttenplan*
Solomon Tilles
Al Snyder*
Ephraim Libbin*
Ruth Kanter*
Evelyn Filkoff*
Arthur Cohen*
Harvey Wallet*
Sandy Steinberg
Milton Rulnick*
Peter Patten
BJ Diefenbacher

*z"l May their memory be for a blessing



Shalom Congregation Beth El members and friends!

As I look back on 2022, I realize it was an excellent year for CBE. We welcomed Shabbat each week with in-person Adult and Young Adult Friday evening services that were attended by familiar faces, as well as a number of new families. We will begin the season with a welcome back service next summer.

We held special Friday evening services, followed by a lovely *Oneg Shabbat* to celebrate CBE's 75th year of continuing operation. Our annual High Holy Day services were just beautiful and inspiring. By offering our members and community the option of attending services in-person or via Zoom, we had a terrific turnout for both.

As we look ahead to next year, we hope to add more events. We will offer our delicious Ice Cream Socials and other programs, such as *Shabbat Under the Stars* and an evening with music and dancing. Please send me your suggestions as to what you would like to see take place at CBE.

Once again, I thank all of you for your continued support!

On behalf of the Board, I wish you a Happy *Chanukah* and a Happy and Healthy 2023!

Lisa



What's Inside:

<i>What Does Mazal Tov Mean</i>	p 3
<i>Shabbat/Chanukah Candle Lighting Times</i>	p 3
<i>Air Fry Your Latkes!</i>	p 4
<i>Best Store-Bought Latkes</i>	p 4
<i>Chanukah Questions & Answers</i>	p 5
<i>A Different Take on Chanukah Gifts</i>	p 6



Thank you for your generous donations!

Donna & Scott Semel - In honor of and with thanks to Lisa Semel & Jonathan Guthart for their devotion to Congregation Beth El.

Pam & Lenny Grossman - In celebration of CBE's 75th anniversary.

Pam Grossman - In memory of my parents, Frances & Conrad Wertheim, at the time of their *yahrzeit*.

Pam Grossman - In memory of my grandmother, Sara Levy Okin Wertheim, at the time of her *yahrzeit*.

Ruth Spitz and Sharon Waxenbaum - In memory of our grandmother, Freda Wiener, at the time of her *yahrzeit*.

Ruth Spitz and Sharon Waxenbaum - In memory of our grandmother, Grace Gordon Snyder, at the time of her *yahrzeit*.

Milestones & Mazal Tovs

Beth Semel has recently taken the position of Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Princeton University. Beth is the daughter of Donna & Scott Semel.

Erin & Josh Waxenbaum celebrated the birth of their son, Keaton Martin Waxenbaum, on December 2, 2022. He is welcomed by big sister, Kinsey, and CBE members: grandparents, Sharon & Preston Waxenbaum, and Dennison and Spitz aunts, uncles and cousins.



www.synagogueoldlyme.org

CBE has a website!

Read our story!

Browse through our photo gallery!
Look through past newsletters for holiday recipes, music and books!

Dedicate a Siddur Book Plate

New grandchild?
Special birthday or anniversary?
Graduation?
Loss of a loved one?



Remember this occasion by dedicating a bookplate in our prayer book, *Sim Shalom*.

Please contact Carol Bojarski at cbojo9@hotmail.com.
Book plate donation - \$18.



A **menorah**, which has only 7 candleholders, was the lamp used in the Temple in Jerusalem. It is now used as an emblem of the State of Israel. A

chanukiah, however, has 9 candlesticks, one for each night of *Chanukah* and an extra *shamash*, servant candle, used to light the others.



Congregation Beth El's

Tree
of
Life

Lucy & Kingsley Blatter have donated a leaf in celebration of their daughter, Scarlett Blatter, becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*.

Congregation Beth El Note Cards



CBE stationery is now available! Blank inside, these 4.25 x 5.5 inch cards are great for handwritten thank yous or for dropping a quick note!

4 cards for \$18
10 cards for \$36

Please contact Carol Bojarski at cbojo9@hotmail.com.

Mail checks made payable to Congregation Beth El to Rick Hyne, 19 Danielle Drive, Wayne, NJ 07470 or Venmo: Congregation-Bethel.



The Congregation and Board of Trustees offer their deepest condolences to the following:

Mindy Jason and **Kim DiBello** - On the loss of their uncle, David Federman, on December 3, 2022.

*Zichronam livrocha,
May the memory of the righteous be for a blessing.*



Shabbat and Chanukah Candle Lighting Times

Shabbat	Friday	Dec	1	5:11 pm
Shabbat	Friday	Dec	9	5:12 pm
Shabbat	Friday	Dec	16	5:15 pm
Chanukah 1 st	Sunday	Dec	18	sunset
Chanukah 2 nd	Monday	Dec	19	sunset
Chanukah 3 rd	Tuesday	Dec	20	sunset
Chanukah 4 th	Wednesday	Dec	21	sunset
Chanukah 5 th	Thursday	Dec	22	sunset
Chanukah 6 th	Friday	Dec	23	before Shabbat candles
Shabbat				5:18 pm
Chanukah 7 th	Saturday	Dec	24	sunset
Chanukah 8 th	Sunday	Dec	25	sunset
Shabbat	Friday	Dec	30	5:21 pm



Chanukah Tales for Children of All Ages

Tizzy the Dizzy Dreidel

By Allison Marks and Wayne Marks
Illustrated by Francesca Assirelli

Poor Tizzy! Spinning makes this *dreidel* dizzy, and everyone in the house seems to know it. When the family gathers to play the *dreidel* game on the first night of *Chanukah*, Tizzy is certain that no one will choose her. "They'd only pick the strongest," she worries. But when 4-year-old Sara "plucks Tizzy off the floor," a new *Chanukah* miracle ensues.

Best Kids' Hanukkah Jokes Ever!

By Highlights

"Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Noah.
Noah who?
Noah good Hanukkah joke?"

So begins this collection of over 500 jokes, puns and riddles that will provide young comedians with a trove of new material to recite over the family table while enjoying latkes or jelly doughnuts. Despite the many *Hanukkah*-centric chapters, with titles such as "Menorah Mania," "Latke Laughs" and "Maccabee Mirth," the book also includes clusters of "Tu B'shevat Tee-Hees," "Shavuot Sillies" and plenty more for year-round entertainment.

Hadassah Magazine Nov/Dec 2022

What Does *Mazal tov* Mean?



This popular Jewish phrase of congratulation is literally a comment on the alignment of the stars.

Hebrew phrase *mazal tov* translated means "good luck." In practice, it's usually said to mean "Congratulations!" In modern Israeli pronunciation, it is said with the accent on the second syllable: ma-ZAL tov. In Yiddish and Ashkenazi pronunciation, the accent comes on the first syllable: MA-zel tof.

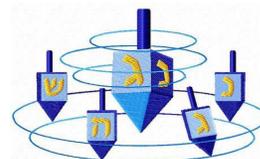
One can expect to hear people shout *mazal tov* at celebrations like weddings just after the glass is broken, at *brit milah* (*bris*) ceremonies and at *B'nai Mitzvah*. It is an appropriate response to any good news, from an engagement to a graduation, a new job, a new house, or any other honor or milestone. In modern Israeli Hebrew, it is common to congratulate people on their birthday using this phrase.

Mazal tov isn't always a perfect substitute for congratulations. Some people avoid saying it to a pregnant woman out of superstition that something might happen to the baby. Instead, it is customary to say *b'sha'ah tovah*, meaning "at a good time." The wish is that the baby will be born healthy and safe, after which point, *mazal tov* would be an appropriate greeting.

The phrase *mazal tov* literally means "a good constellation," implying that the recipient is experiencing good fortune because the stars have aligned for them. In fact, the song incorporating this phrase, *siman tov u'mazal tov*, meaning "a good sign, a good constellation," makes this even more explicit.

Ancient rabbinic texts speak of good and bad *mazalot*, constellations, but the phrase, *mazal tov*, was not used in a congratulatory manner until the 19th century. A reasonable literal translation of the phrase might be "good luck" but this doesn't, as it does in English, carry the connotation of hoping for future fortune. Rather, it acknowledges present good fortune. To wish a person future luck in Hebrew, one would say *b'hatzlachah*, may you have success.

My Jewish Learning 11/23/22



You Should Be Air-Frying Your Latkes!

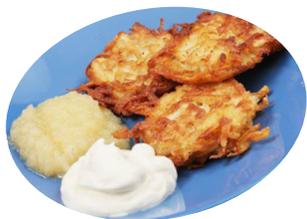
The secret to latkes with crispy outsides, creamy insides and no grease!

Whether you are Team Sour Cream or Team Applesauce, no one can resist the crispy exterior and tender inside of a well-fried latke. But far less appealing is the inevitable oil splatter all over your stove and countertops and the odor of fried food that seems to linger for days.

Using an air fryer is the secret to lighter, easier, golden brown, yet just-as-tasty latkes, with only a spritz of oil.

Ingredients

2 large russet potatoes, peeled
1 white onion
2 eggs, beaten
1/4 cup matzah meal
1 1/2 tsp kosher salt
1/2 tsp ground black pepper
oil for spraying
applesauce and sour cream for serving



Directions

1. Grate the potatoes on the coarse side of a box grater. Place the grated potatoes in a bowl and cover with cold water to remove the starch. Allow to sit for at least 15 minutes.
 2. Remove a handful of grated potatoes from the water and squeeze to remove as much liquid as possible. Place drained shreds in a clean bowl. Repeat until all the potato has been drained.
 3. Grate the onion on the coarse side of a box grater. Squeeze to remove as much of the liquid as possible. Place drained onion in the bowl with the potatoes.
 4. Add the beaten egg, matzah meal, salt, and pepper to the onion-potato mixture and stir together with a fork.
 5. Scoop 1/3 cup of the mixture and form into a patty, squeezing to ensure the mixture holds together. Repeat to form 6 patties.
 6. Spray the basket of the air fryer with oil and place the patties in the basket, taking care not to overcrowd them. Spray the tops of the patties with oil.
 7. Cook at 375 degrees F for 8 minutes, then carefully flip the patties, spray the second side with oil, and cook for an additional 5 to 6 minutes, until browned and crispy. Remove latkes to an oven-safe platter. Keep warm in a 250 degree F oven.
 8. Repeat with the remaining batter. Serve latkes warm with sour cream or applesauce.
 9. To reheat latkes, place in the air fryer (no need for extra oil) and cook at 300 degrees F for 5 to 10 minutes until heated through.
- With thanks to Emily Paster, The Nosh 12.22

The Best Store-Bought Latkes

All the deliciousness, less of the frying!

Seeking an easier, quicker way to enjoy potato latkes that "doesn't leave your house smelling like the inside of a fast-food joint," author Shannon Sarna and her children took on the task of taste-testing all the frozen latkes they could find. They discovered several quality, frozen options and here are their favorites:

Best in Show:

Trader Joe's Classic Potato Latkes

Trader Joe's classic potato latkes really hit the mark: crispy on the outside, creamy on the inside and very easy to warm up in the oven. My kids liked these best and I concurred. And considering Trader Joe's has locations all over the country, their latkes are pretty accessible. Grab some applesauce, sour cream or maybe even their everything bagel yogurt dip for the perfect *Chanukah* nosh.



A Close Second: Golden Potato Latkes

Golden's potato latkes were actually crispier than the Trader Joe's kind, which for me was just a tad bit too crispy. Nevertheless, they heated up quickly and were delicious. Golden brands kosher foods are carried in several major supermarket chains.



If You Want "Healthier" Latkes:

Golden Zucchini Latkes

These latkes tasted like homemade zucchini-potato latkes and I thought they were excellent. Slightly less crispy than their all-potato counterparts, I thought if someone served these to me and didn't tell me they were store-bought, I would not have known. My older daughter commented, "the veggie ones are actually pretty good" which is a ringing endorsement as any.



Delicious Gluten-Free Option:

Trader Joe's Cauliflower Latkes

Trader Joe's comes through again with their cauliflower latkes, which are actually gluten-free and pretty darn delicious all year long. They aren't dairy-free - they are pretty cheesy and creamy inside.



Shannon Sarna, The Nosh 12.19

[Editor's note: During the Chanukah season, Trader Joe's latkes sell out quickly in some markets. Off-season they can be found in the frozen breakfast section.]



Chanukah: Practical Questions & Answers

When are the Chanukah lights to be lit?

The Talmud says the proper time for kindling the lights is, "from the time the sun sets." Defining what is meant by this varies according to whom you ask. Since there is no prohibition against kindling lights on the holiday itself, the exact minute of candlelighting is not especially important. If you are not able to light after sunset, it is permissible to light before sunset, but only if the candles themselves will last the half hour after sunset. If you forget to light at the proper time, lights may be kindled any time during the evening.



How long must the Chanukah lights burn?

The legal requirement is that the candles burn "until the time that people cease to walk about in the street." Before the advent of street lights, people did not usually walk about long after nightfall, as it was somewhat dangerous to do so. Since the practice of people was to be in their homes within one-half hour of nightfall, and the primary *mitzvah* is to "publicize the miracle," the practice of displaying the Chanukah lights was designed for pedestrian traffic. Therefore, the rabbis decided that Chanukah lights should last 30 minutes after three stars appear in the sky.

Where is the chanukiah placed?

The Talmud specifies: "One should place the Chanukah lamp by the door of the house, on the outside, within a handbreadth of the door, so that it is on the left side of a person entering the house, the *mezzuzah* on the right and the *chanukiah* on the left. If one resides in an upper story, the lamp should be placed in a window overlooking the public domain. In times of danger, one may place the *chanukiah* inside the house, on the table..." *Shabbat 21b*



Today, many people place their *chanukiah* in a window facing the street to comply with the requirement to "publicize the miracle." Other families interpret the need to "publicize" to refer to your own family and they create a lighting center somewhere in the home.

Is there any requirement that a woman or man is to light the chanukiah?

Women and men are equally obligated to kindle *chanukiah* lights.

May children light their own chanukiah?



Yes. In fact, if children have made their own *chanukiah*, encourage them to use it. However, the adult(s) in the family may not transfer their obligation to light an *chanukiah* for themselves.

May I read by the light of the chanukiah?

No. Unlike *Shabbat* candles, the *chanukiah* lights are not to be used for any purpose other than to publicize the miracle of Chanukah.

Is it true that no work should be done while the chanukiah lights are burning?

Yes. Attention should be focused on the lights, singing songs and playing dreidel!



Can an electric menorah be used as a chanukiah?

According to nearly all authorities, an electrified *menorah* may not be used to fulfill the *mitzvah* of kindling the Chanukah lights. While electric bulbs give off light, the filaments are not considered a "flame." A mandatory amount of "fuel" must be available when the lights are kindled. An electric *menorah* depends on continuous generation of power to remain lit. Since the law governing the *chanukiah* is "kindling constitutes the performance of the *mitzvah*," turning on an electric light would not fulfill the commandment. However, an electric *chanukiah* is a safe option for a windowsill!

When Shabbat candles are lit, the custom is to cover your view of the lights while saying the blessings. Why don't we do the same when lighting the chanukiah?

The usual practice of Jewish ritual is to say the blessing first, followed by the act itself. For example, we recite *HaMotzi* then eat the challah. But on *Shabbat*, once we say the blessing, it is *Shabbat* and we cannot light a fire. That's why the rabbis developed the strategy of preparing the lights before saying the blessing. On Chanukah, this isn't necessary and so we recite the blessings, then kindle the candles.



Speaking of Shabbat, when are Chanukah lights lit on Friday evening?

With the prohibition against lighting fire on *Shabbat*, Chanukah candles are lit immediately before *Shabbat* candles.

What about lighting the chanukiah on Saturday night?

Chanukah lights are lit after *Havdalah*. This guards against the possibility of violating *Shabbat* by lighting a fire. *Havdalah* marks the separation between the sacred time of the Sabbath and the ordinary time of the work week, physically demonstrated by the lighting of the *Havdalah* candle. Chanukah candles are lit immediately after the conclusion of the *Havdalah* service.

Must I light the chanukiah if I see it lit in the synagogue?

Many synagogues hold a *chanukiah* lighting ceremony, but this does not release you from lighting at home.

Chanukah is not the traditional time for gift-giving on the Jewish calendar.

Purim, with its "mishloach manot," sending of presents, is historically the holiday of gift exchanges. Yet due to the commercialization taking place in December, gift-giving has become a major part of the *Chanukah* celebration.



Most gifts have a short life span and might end up forgotten on a shelf. Below are some interesting alternatives to the materialistic side of *Chanukah* to get you started.

1st night: Big gift night - parents give to children

5th night: *Mitzvah* night - make coupons to do a nice thing for other family members

2nd night: Parent night - children give to parents

6th night: Giving night - give a gift to a charity with children's gifts matched by parents

3rd night: Grandparent night - give to grandparents

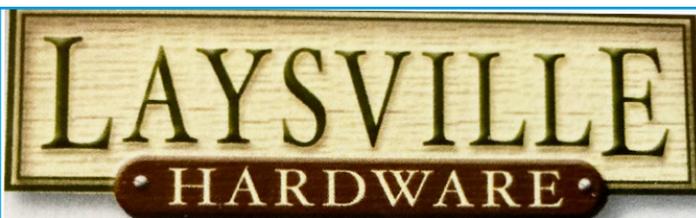
7th night: Memory night - assemble a family photo album or make a holiday craft

4th night: Jewish game night - check out Amazon/synagogue gift shop or play hide the dreidel & find it with "hot or cold" hints

8th night: Movie night - buy/rent a Jewish DVD



We welcome new advertiser!
Laysville Hardware



860.434.7727

171 Boston Post Road • Old Lyme, CT 06371
email: laysvillehardware@sbcglobal.net
www.laysvillehardware.com

CBE newsletters are published in
June/July/August/September/Chanukah/Pesach.

Please send your good news:
simchas, birthdays and anniversaries to:

Sharon Waxenbaum at
shanaaviv@gmail.com
or call
631-748-8459



Donations to CBE by check should be made out to
Congregation Beth El and mailed to
Rick Hyne, 19 Danielle Drive, Wayne, NJ 07470

Our **Venmo** account is: **Congregation-Bethel** (hyphen between
Congregation and Beth and no space between Beth and el)

AT-HOME CAR CLEANING

Inside & Out
WE COME TO YOU!

Mobile Car Cleaner
Alexis Fenton

860-876-7797
alexisfenton88@gmail.com
Old Lyme, CT

Call to book appt.



Barbara Crowley (860) 434-9727

16B Lyme Street • Old Lyme, CT 06371
thechocolateshell@gmail.com
thechocolateshell.com