



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 5782

November/December 2021

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*z"l May their memory be for a blessing



Shalom Congregation Beth El members and friends,

As we approach Thanksgiving, followed swiftly by *Chanukah*, Fall gives way to Winter. The days are shorter, the temperature is lower and winter storms are on the way, even for our snowbirds. We've closed our cottages for the season (most of us at least), and are counting the months, weeks and days until we can return.

The last time we were together was via Zoom for the High Holy Days. Our hope for the coming Summer is that the coronavirus is under control and the majority of people in our area, and in the country, have been fully vaccinated, permitting all of us to gather safely in person. Many of you have not seen the sanctuary renovation or the stunning new ark created by our own Steve Wallet.

We look forward to resuming our Ice Cream Socials, as well as creating new experiences such as *Shabbat Under the Stars* and an evening soiree in our beautiful yard, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of our little synagogue by the sea. If anyone has suggestions for programs they would like to attend, please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email or phone.

2022 here we come!

On behalf of the Board, I wish for you a Happy Thanksgiving with family and lots of pie, a Happy *Chanukah* with lots of latkes and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

Lisa



This summer, Congregation Beth El will celebrate

75 years of service to the OCB Community!

Watch for commemoration details!



Chag Chanukah Sameach & a Happy and Healthy 2022!





Thank you for your generous donations!

Natalie Mandell - In honor of Deborah & Ira Feigenbaum, for the many *mitzvot* they have bestowed upon me.

Marian & Rick Hyne - In celebration of our grandchildren's August birthdays: Lily Hyne turned six years old and Austin Hyne turned one year old.

Natalie Mandell - Because we at OCB all survived Hurricane Henri with no loss of life or property damage.

Marian & Rick Hyne - In memory of Warren Gordon, brother of Carol Bojarski.

Pam & Lenny Grossman - In memory of Warren Gordon, brother of Carol Bojarski.

Pam & Lenny Grossman - In celebration of the 50th birthday of our son, Jonathan, on December 22, 2021.

Ruth Spitz and **Sharon Waxenbaum** - In memory of our beloved grandfather, Edward Wiener, at the time of his *yahrzeit*.

Ruth Spitz and **Sharon Waxenbaum** - In memory of our beloved father, Donald Wiener, at the time of his *yahrzeit*.

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

Ruth Spitz and **Sharon Waxenbaum** - In memory of our beloved mother, Adelle Wiener, at the time of her *yahrzeit*.

CBE is most grateful to those who enhanced our High Holy Day services through their participation.

Our *chazzan*, **Ari Kramer**, has *davened* at CBE for the past 15 years. His *heimish* demeanor and inspiring melodies elevate our services and always enrich the holiday experience for our congregation.

Yasher koach to those who participated in our High Holy Day services by having an *aliyah* or by reading an English portion: **Nancy Bazilian, Michael Cohen, Charlie Collins, Erin Dennison, Kim DiBella, Cindy Filkoff, Jon Guthart, Ken Hyne, Mindy Jason, Bonnie Laurence, Peter Patten, Sandy Patten, Jan Rosenberg, Lisa Semel, Scott Semel, Edyse Smith, Amy Spitz, Andy Spitz** and **Ruth Spitz**.

Kol hakavod to **Ruth Spitz**, our *shofar* blower.

A big *todah rabah* to **Erin Dennison**, our Zoom tech.

Sharon Waxenbaum
Ritual Chair



Milestones & Mazal Tovs

Ethan Fenton has begun working toward his PhD in neuroscience at UC Davis in California. His proud parents are **Andrea & Fred Fenton**.

Jacob Fenton has moved to Tampa, Florida where he has taken a position with ICON Aircraft. His proud parents are **Andrea & Fred Fenton**.

Cassidy Siso recently became engaged to Corey Richardson. Her proud mom is Jaime Summer and proud grandmother is **BJ Diefenbacher**.



Candy Fund

Lisa Semel & Jon Guthart - In honor of BJ Diefenbacher's return to Old Colony Beach.

Lynne & Ken Hyne - In honor of their grandson, Alex Hambley.

Sarah & Nathan Taylor - In honor of their children, Harrison and Eleanor Taylor.



Shabbat and Holiday Candle Lighting Times



Friday,	Nov 19	5:12 pm
Friday,	Nov 26	5:11 pm
Sunday	Nov 28	*
Friday,	Dec 3	5:11 pm

*The 1st candle in the *chanukiah*, the *Chanukah menorah*, is lit at sunset, when the first stars appear. If possible it should be placed in front of a window (or use a second, electric *chanukiah* there) in order to observe the custom of *pirsumay nisa*, publicizing the miracle!

On the 6th night, Friday, December 3rd, *Chanukah* candles are lit before *Shabbat* candles. Once *Shabbat* candles have been lit, kindling *Chanukah* candles (creating fire) is considered work.

Why Chanukah Is Actually a Minor Holiday

From the large public *chanukiah* displays, to the buzz on social media about popular gifts and trendy latke recipes, to the endless attempts to resolve that other December dilemma (sour cream or apple sauce), it's tempting to conclude that *Chanukah* represents the apex of the Jewish calendar.

But in fact, *Chanukah* is a relatively minor holiday from the perspective of Jewish tradition. The term is generally taken to mean that the holidays *Rosh HaShanah*, *Yom Kippur*, *Sukkot*, *Passover* and *Shavuot*, which are mentioned in the Bible, have many associated rituals and traditions and are all days on which it's customary not to work, are more important.

Chanukah came later. That makes sense when you consider it commemorates a historical event - the successful Maccabean revolt against the Syrian Greeks and the rededication of the Temple - that happened many centuries after the Torah was written. The first written account of the story, in the First and Second Book of Maccabees, isn't even included in the Tanach.

Like other minor holidays, such as *Purim* and *Tisha B'Av*, *Chanukah* was a creation of our rabbis, and thus religiously carries far less weight than biblical holidays. It has only one religious ritual - lighting the *chanukiah*.

In modern times, *Chanukah* is rivaled only by the *Passover Seder* as the most observed Jewish ritual. This was fueled in part by the rise of Zionism, whose early

The Kislev Connection



On the 25th day of the month of Kislev, 165 BCE, Jews began to rededicate the Temple after the Maccabean victory. The Jewish calendar is a lunar calendar and the dates of all holidays are set by paying attention to the phases of the moon. During *Chanukah*, the moon is in the same phase every year, with the new moon appearing on the sixth night.

Most of the secular world uses the solar-based Gregorian calendar. While the dates of *Chanukah* are usually included on these calendars, sometimes there can be confusion. Remember that you begin lighting candles on the night before the Gregorian calendar indicates the first day of *Chanukah*.

pioneers identified with the Jewish warriors who had stood their ground in the ancient land of Israel. Many modern Jews also find inspiration in the story of an outnumbered band of Jewish patriots who shook off the yoke of foreign oppression and struck a blow for religious freedom. In many Western nations, *Chanukah* is seen as an authentically Jewish way to embrace the December holiday season and its traditions of kindling lights and giving gifts.

With thanks to My Jewish Learning

The Jewish Holiday You Can Celebrate Every Month

Rosh Chodesh, head of the month, is a holiday that marks the beginning of every Hebrew month.

The Hebrew calendar is established in the Book of Exodus when God commands the Israelites to mark the months of the year (Exodus 12:1-2). Later on in the Torah, *Rosh Chodesh* is mentioned in the same context as the more important festivals. The people are commanded to be joyous, offer sacrifices and be reminded of God's divinity (Numbers 10:10).

Originally, there was not a set calendar for Jewish months. Instead, the Sanhedrin (an ancient court) would declare a new month after receiving the testimony of two reliable witnesses reporting that they had seen the new moon. Then the message was spread throughout Israel and Babylonia via small fires on hilltops. A fixed calendar was set between 200 - 500 CE and there was no longer any need for witnesses or messengers.

In modern practice, *Rosh Chodesh* celebrations

begin the Saturday before the new month. A special prayer, *Birkat ha-Chodesh*, is recited at the conclusion of the Torah reading, expressing our hopes for the month to come, from peace and prosperity to success in business, good health and piety.

Rosh Chodesh is a holiday with few observances, but there are significant prayer changes. An extra paragraph is added to the *Amidah* and to the Grace after Meals. An abbreviated form of *Hallel* is recited, and a selection from the Torah about the *Rosh Chodesh* sacrifice is read. An additional service, *musaf*, is added after *shacharit*, morning prayers.

This holiday has long been considered a special day for women. Some say that this is because the women of Israel did not offer their jewelry for the creation of the Golden Calf. *Rosh Chodesh* has long been a time for Jewish women to gather for a wide variety of activities, from reciting tradition liturgy to sharing a meal, discussing Jewish ethics and working for social change.

If your winter synagogue does not offer a *Rosh Chodesh* program, you will be able to find ample resources online.

With thanks to My Jewish Learning 3





Chanukah Tales for Children of All Ages

Hello Hanukkah

by Susan S. Novich

The littlest ones in the family can learn to count and recognize colors by lighting the *chanukiah* with a young badger who celebrates *Chanukah* along with an orange-crowned feathered friend. Who knew the hoopoe is Israel's national bird? (ages 1-4)

My Hanukkah Book of Opposites

by Tammar Stein, Illus. by Juliana Perdomo

Young kids celebrate the Festival of Lights in this colorful board book with *Chanukah*-themed opposites. Up and down are illustrated with a dreidel spinning and falling down. It's dark outside the house, but inside it's light, with a boy standing next to the lit *chanukiah*. The book also features a diverse array of Jewish children. (ages 1-4)

Baby Loves Angular Momentum on Hanukkah!

by Ruth Spiro, Illus. by Irene Chan

In what may be the first *Chanukah*-themed board book that centers on STEM topics (the acronym for teaching science, technology, engineering and math), kids get the basics on what makes the dreidel spin (torque) and fall down (gravity). (ages 0-3)

Red and Green and Blue and White

by Lee Wind, illus. by Paul O. Zelinsky

In this uplifting story, illustrated by Caldecott-winning artist Paul O. Zelinsky, two best friends - Isaac, who is Jewish, and Teresa, who is Christian - look forward to celebrating their winter holidays. But when someone smashes the window displaying a *chanukiah* at Isaac's home, Teresa's touching sign of friendship and courage sparks an unlikely community-wide show of support for Isaac's family. The tale is based on the inspiring 1993 true story from Billings, Montana, that made headlines across the country. (ages 4-9)

The Three Latkes

by Eric A. Kimmel, illus. by Feronia Parker-Thomas

In this humorous holiday tale, three colorful cartoon-like potato latkes ask the household cat which tastes the best: the red latke, the yellow latke or the gold latke, each made with different kinds of potatoes. What will the clever cat decide? The ending may surprise you! (ages 4-8)

Shield of the Maccabees: A Hanukkah Graphic Novel

by Eric A. Kimmel, art by Dov Smiley

This colorful, 125-page, action-packed graphic novel is set in ancient Judea when Jews lived under Greek rule. In the opening frames of this imagined story, Jonathan, a Jewish boy, comes to the rescue of Jason, a Greek boy who is being bullied, a brave act that kindles the boys' friendship. Will their friendship endure the battle lines drawn when Greek King Antiochus forbids Jews from practicing their religion? Kimmel hopes the book will inspire readers to think about what they can learn from others in different cultures and religions. (ages 9-12)

Pinky Bloom and the Case of the Magical Menorah

by Judy Press, illus. by Erica-Jane Waters

In this second-in-a-series chapter book for older elementary readers, Penina "Pinky" Bloom has the reputation of being Brooklyn's "greatest kid detective." As *Chanukah* approaches, she's put to the test when an old Israeli coin on display in her family's synagogue is stolen. Is there a clue in the antique *menorah* Pinky's family is safeguarding for a neighbor? (ages 8-12)

The Golden Dreidel

by Ellen Kushner, illus. by Kevin Keele

Originally performed as a theatrical production with Shirim Klezmer Orchestra, this story is back and better than ever. Sara, is a plucky, modern Jewish pre-teen who envies her friends with Christmas trees. When her mysterious Tante Miriam gives her a golden *dreidel* at the family's holiday party, Sara finds herself time-traveling to ancient Israel for an adventure involving demons, riddles and a kidnapped princess who's been turned into a spinning golden *dreidel*. As Sara finds the courage to save the princess, she gains new appreciation for the meaning of *Chanukah* and family. (ages 7-12)

Larry's Latkes

by Jenna Waldman, illus. by Ben Whitehouse

Every *Chanukah*, a lovable crocodile named Big Larry (think Big Bird but in a green, lizard-like form), serves up the perfect fried potato latkes at his food truck. But when Larry skips the potatoes in his Grandma Golda Gator's traditional recipe and tries beets, kale, peaches and tomatillos fresh from the farmer's market, his new versions just don't measure up to the delicious, traditional ones. (ages 4-8)



www.synagogueoldlyme.org

CBE has a website! Read our story!
Browse through our photo gallery!
Look back on past newsletters!

Happy, Healthy Thanksgiving!



I Have a Little Dreidel...



In Yiddish it's dreidel, in Hebrew it's sivivon. Here's how to play:

1. Everyone starts with 18 pennies (or nuts, buttons, at OCB it's seashells, etc.)
2. Each player puts one object in the middle (aka the pot.)
3. The dreidel is spun by one player at a time.
4. Whether the player wins or loses depends on which face of the dreidel is up when it falls:

- נ Nun means "nisht" or "nothing." The player does nothing.
- ג Gimmel means "gantz" or "all." The player takes everything in the pot.
- ה Hey means "halb" or "half." The player takes half the pot.
- ש Shin means "shtel" or "put in." The player adds one object to the pot.

5. When only one object is left in the pot, every player adds one.
6. When an odd number of objects are in the pot, the player rolling Hey takes half plus one.
7. If the pot empties, each player should ante up again so the game may continue.

Variation: Assign a point value to each letter.

The first person or team to reach 72 wins!

נ Nun	=	0
ג Gimmel	=	10
ה Hey	=	5
ש Shin	=	-5



Heizenblozen

Our mom, Adelle Wiener, always made this childhood holiday favorite for Ruth and me. Dough fried in oil fits the Chanukah theme, though now I wonder if they could be made in an air fryer...

2	Eggs	1 Tbsp	Cinnamon
1 1/3 C	Flour	Pinch	Salt
1/4 C	Confectioners		Vegetable Oil for frying

1. Mix eggs, salt and flour. Knead until soft and elastic.
2. Roll to thin sheet on floured board.
3. Cut into two-inch squares.
4. Make a slit through the center of each square and pull one corner into the slit.
5. Drop into hot oil and fry until a delicate brown, turning if necessary. (They fry quickly - watch out!)
They will puff up into odd shapes while frying.
6. Drain on paper towels.
7. Dust with sugar and cinnamon to taste.

To make pinwheels: Cut the sheet of dough into three-inch squares. Cut into all four corners of each square diagonally toward the center, but not all the way through. Bend every other cut end down to the center and press down. Let them stand for 10 minutes, then fry, drain and dust with sugar and cinnamon.

The Jewish Home Beautiful WLCJ 1953

Congregation Beth El has Cards for Every Occasion!

You can acknowledge a loss or happy occasion such as a graduation, anniversary, birthday or wedding with a card from CBE! If you make a contribution to the synagogue, **Carol Bojarski** will send one for you! Call her at 860-508-3635 or email her at cbojo9@hotmail.com.



We also have cards with a picture of the synagogue on the front and plenty of room for your message inside! Purchase a packet of cards and you will have one on hand!



Project Re-Connect

Congregation Beth El would like to re-establish connection with former members of our synagogue community, regardless of where they now live.

We maintain a database of emails, phone numbers and addresses of current and former members. If you know of people who might like to receive our newsletter and announcements, and perhaps participate in a Zoom service, please send their names and email addresses to **Brian Cutler** at: **beachshulmembership@gmail.com**

Chanukah favorites from two delightful Jewish a cappella groups, The Maccabeats and Six13:



1. Maccabeats: Candlelight

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=qSjCSR4MuhU>

2. Maccabeats: I Have a Little Dreidel

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=AgywrSo4o3c>

3. Maccabeats: A Hamilton Chanukah

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=u3UubcYj49k>

4. Six13: A Star Wars Chanukah

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=qRGlpowJQeM>

5. Six13: Bohemian Chanukah

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=9P30ckBf>

We welcome new advertiser
The Chocolate Shell!

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Barbara Crowley (860) 434-9727
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thechocolateshell@gmail.com
thechocolateshell.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)

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