



# 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

Kislev 5781

December 2020

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\*z"l May their memory be for a blessing.



Shalom Congregation Beth El members and friends,

Circumstances were far from ideal this year and we weren't sure if we could continue our 73 year history of summer services at the beach. Zoom rescued us, and we were blessed to move our *Shabbat* services online. We couldn't be together in person, but we could still be together in prayer.

The last time we celebrated via Zoom was on the High Holidays. Ari Kramer did a wonderful job, and he and Sharon Waxenbaum created the perfect service for us. We had members log in from their homes, from a friend's home, and from all across the country. We were grateful to be able to do this together, especially those of us at the beach, who safely walked to the shore for *tashlich*.

A few weeks ago, our Board held its final meeting for 2020. As each Board member recounted their thoughts on a year dominated by a blazing pandemic, economic turmoil and political uncertainty, all of us realized that despite the hardships, we have incredible support from the members and friends of our little beach shul. For that, we are extremely blessed, grateful and thankful!

The first night of *Chanukah* falls on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> (yes, it's early the year)! We wish you and your families a Happy *Chanukah* filled with menorahs, latkes and *sufganiyot* (jam-filled donuts).

Please stay safe - and stay in touch.

On behalf of the Board,  
Lisa

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Chag Chanukah Sameach & a Happy, Healthy and Safe 2021!





## Project Re-Connect

Our CBE Board is interested in re-establishing 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**



## Virtual Candy Fund

**Pam & Len Grossman** - In honor of their grandchildren, Max, Gabe, Nate and Dylan Grossman and Ally and Maddie Cates.



Congregation Beth El's

Tree  
of  
Life

If you looking for a meaningful way to remember a loved one, or to commemorate someone's accomplishment or a happy event, you could mark the occasion by adding a leaf to our CBE Tree of Life!

Please contact **Anita Kaplowitz** at **860-559-7836** or email her at **anitak1126@gmail.com**.

Thank you for your leaf donations!

**Sharon & Preston Waxenbaum** - In honor of Kinsey Troisi Waxenbaum.

**Ruth & Andy Spitz** - In honor of Kinsey Troisi Waxenbaum.

**Craig & Karen Silver** - In our hearts, our lovely and loved mom, Ilsa Mayer Silver, and Alfred & Elsa Mayer, our oma and opa.

**Karen & Craig Silver** - In remembrance of our cherished Maxine & Leonard Lickstein and Leah & Monroe Epstein.

**Sharon & Preston Waxenbaum** - In honor of Dylan Joseph Fucella.

**Ruth & Andy Spitz** - In honor of Dylan Joseph Fucella.

## Milestones & Mazal Tovs

**Erin & Josh Waxenbaum** celebrated the birth of their daughter, Kinsey Troisi Waxenbaum, on September 6, 2020. She is welcomed by CBE members and proud grandparents, **Sharon & Pres Waxenbaum, Aunt Erin & Uncle Brad Dennison** and **cousins Aden and Wesley**.

**Amy Spitz** celebrated her engagement to Alan Khorshidi. Her proud parents are **Ruth & Andy Spitz**.

**Becky & Tom Fucella** celebrated the birth of their son, Dylan Joseph Fucella, on October 10, 2020. He is welcomed by CBE members and proud grandparents, **Ruth & Andy Spitz, Aunt Amy Spitz & Uncle-to-be Alan Khorshidi** and **Uncle Robbie Spitz**.

**Benjamin DiBella** became a *Bar Mitzvah* on November 28, 2020. The occasion was celebrated by CBE members and proud parents, **Kim & Jason DiBella**, grandmother **Dori Bobrow, Aunt Mindy & Uncle Jeremy Jason** and **Great Aunt Ellen & Great Uncle Scott Bobrow**.



## Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

Friday, Dec	4	4:02 pm
Friday, Dec	11	4:02 pm
Friday, Dec	18	4:04 pm
Friday, Dec	25	4:08 pm



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

**BJ Diefenbacher, Jamie Summer and Cassidy Siso & Diefenbacher Family** - On the loss of their husband, father and grandfather, William Diefenbacher, on September 11, 2020.

**Fenmore and Ira Feigenbaum & Family** - On the loss of their wife, mother and grandmother, Gladys Feigenbaum, on October 30, 2020.

*Zichronam livrocha,*

*May the memory of the righteous be for a blessing.*

## The TRUE Miracle of Chanukah

1. The Maccabees were willing to light the Temple *menorah* with that one container of oil, even though they thought it would not burn more than one day.
2. There were probably people who said:
  - "Why light a flame that is going to burn out?"
  - "Wait until we have enough oil."
  - "Wait until conditions are better."
3. Sometimes it's hard to start something when you can't be sure you'll succeed. You might think:
  - "Why bother?"
  - "I'll never be able to finish."
  - "I'll never figure it out."
4. YET...the Maccabees cleaned the Temple, removed the idols, took the opportunity they had and lit the *menorah* anyway!

5. *Chanukah* is the story of the fight for religious freedom.
6. *Chanukah* shows us that the Jewish people have always had the strength to:
  - live without guarantees of success
  - seize the opportunities available at the moment
7. The modern State of Israel is considered a miracle. There were those who said:
  - "Wait until your army is stronger."
  - "Wait until conditions are better."
 But a group of people looked to the example of the Maccabees and had the courage to "light the flame."
8. SO...when you look at the little flames dancing on your *chanukiah* this holiday, take a moment to consider how the Maccabees must have felt when they poured that single container of oil into their *menorah* and kindled the flame.



### My Brother-in-Law's\* Excellent Latke Recipe

- |  |     |                          |
|--|-----|--------------------------|
| 4 Large Russet or Idaho potatoes, peeled | 1 ½ | Large onions, peeled     |
| 3 Eggs whipped in blender                | 1 ½ | C Matzah meal (or flour) |

1. Grate potatoes and onions in a food processor on coarse setting or on the large holes of a box grater.
2. In a large bowl stir together grated potato mixture and whipped eggs. Then add matzah meal and stir until combined. Season with salt and pepper.
3. Heat ¼ inch peanut or vegetable oil in nonstick skillet over medium heat until shimmering. Add tablespoon-sized glob of mixture to skillet to form each latke. (If they're too big the latkes will be raw in the middle. Smaller latkes are crispier.)
4. Working in batches, fry latkes until gold brown and crisp, 3-4 minutes a side.
5. Place latkes on a rack set on a foil-lined baking sheet and keep warm in 200 degree oven.
6. Recipe yields about 36 latkes. Watch out for nosers hovering in the kirchen!

\*Recipe courtesy of Andy Spitz

### Have Some Fun With Your Latkes...Add Toppings!

- **Nacho** - Top the latkes with warm refried beans, shredded cheddar, sliced pickled jalapenos, sour cream and thinly sliced scallions.
- **Spicy Ricotta** - Heat honey with a pinch of red pepper flakes. Top the latkes with a spoonful of ricotta with a drizzle of spicy honey.
- **Hummus/Olive** - Spread hummus on the latkes. Top with chopped pitted Kalamata olives and chopped parsley. Sprinkle with paprika and drizzle with oil.
- **Pastrami** - Top the latkes with a small slice of pastrami, warmed sauerkraut and a dot of spicy brown mustard.

- **Cucumber/Yogurt** - Mix plain yogurt with a squeeze of lemon juice and a pinch of salt. Spoon onto the latkes. Top with za'atar, chopped cilantro and thinly sliced Persian cucumbers.



- **Egg Salad** - Spoon egg salad onto the latkes, then top with chopped chives, dill and salmon roe.
- **Giardiniera** - Pile chopped, drained giardiniera on latkes and top with small slices of beef salami.
- **Fennel/Apple** - Toss thinly sliced fennel and julienned apple with lemon juice and olive oil. Season with salt and pepper. Pile on the latkes and top with fennel fronds.

Recipes by Steve Jackson, Food Network Magazine 12.2020

## Chanukah Candle Lighting Traditions

During *Chanukah* we read from the Torah and recite *Hallel* during synagogue services. But the most widely observed tradition takes place in our homes, where for eight nights we light the *Chanukah* candles then recite the blessings.

1. The *chanukiah* (9-branched *Chanukah* menorah) should be lit after sunset, when the first stars appear.
2. If possible, the *chanukiah* should be displayed in a window facing the street (or use a second electric *chanukiah* there) in order to observe the custom of *pirsumei nisa*, publicizing the miracle. *Chanukah* celebrates the fight for religious freedom. It is not enough to illuminate your home with light and warmth, but it is also necessary to illuminate your neighborhood and community. We want to let everyone know that it's *Chanukah* and that we are proud to be Jewish.
3. The *Chanukah* lights are for us to enjoy and are not to be used for anything else, not even to light another candle. That's why we use the *shamash*, the servant candle, to light the others.
4. There are many styles of *chanukiot*. As long as the *shamash* holder is taller than all the other candles, yours is a *kosher* (fit, proper) *chanukiah*.

5. Each night a new candle is added on the **right** side. The first night, place one candle on the far right as you face the *chanukiah*. The second night place two candles on the right, etc.

The newest candle is lit **first**, so the lighting goes from **left to right**; adding candles goes from **right to left**.



Because the *menorah* (the 7-branched holder) in the Temple in Jerusalem was lit with oil, some families use special oil *chanukiot*. While any type of oil can be used, olive oil is a favorite.

6. Every family has their own lighting customs. In some families each member lights their own *chanukiah*; in other families, parents and children take turns lighting the candles.

7. On *Shabbat* (**Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>** this year), *Chanukah* candles are lit before *Shabbat* candles. (Once *Shabbat* candles have been lit, kindling *Chanukah* candles, creating fire, would be considered work.)

8. Candles should burn for at least half an hour. No regular work - no clearing the table or doing homework - should take place while they are burning. Relax, sing songs, eat latkes, play *dreidel* games!

## Congregation Beth El has Cards!

Acknowledge a loss, or a graduation, anniversary, birthday, wedding or any other happy occasion with a card from CBE!



There is a picture of the synagogue on the front and plenty of room for your message inside!

Contact **Denise Dickstein** and she'll send one for you! You can reach her at **860-836-8811** or **dickstein1@cox.net**.

CBE newsletters are published in June/July/August/September/December/April.

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

Sharon Waxenbaum at  
shanaaviv@gmail.com

or call  
631-748-8459



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Brian Cutler, Ph.D.



Thank you for your generous donations!

**BJ Diefenbacher** - In honor of the engagement of Amy Spitz to Alan Khorshidi.

**Marian & Rick Hyne** - In honor of the engagement of Amy Spitz to Alan Khorshidi.

**Ruth & Andy Spitz** - In celebration of the engagement of our daughter, Amy Spitz, to Alan Khorshidi.

**Sharon & Preston Waxenbaum** - In celebration of the engagement of our niece, Amy Spitz, to Alan Khorshidi.

**Marian & Rick Hyne** - In honor of the birth of their grandson, Austin Zachary Hyne, son of Elissa & Jason Hyne and sibling of Lily and Brady Hyne.

**Pam & Len Grossman** - In honor of the birth of Austin Zachary Hyne.

**Sharon & Preston Waxenbaum** - In celebration of the birth of our granddaughter, Kinsey Troisi Waxenbaum, daughter of Erin & Josh Waxenbaum.

**Ruth & Andy Spitz** - In celebration of the birth of our grand-niece, Kinsey Troisi Waxenbaum.

**BJ Diefenbacher** - In honor of the birth of Kinsey Troisi Waxenbaum.

**Marian & Rick Hyne** - In honor of the birth of Kinsey Troisi Waxenbaum.

**Pam & Len Grossman** - In honor of the birth of Kinsey Troisi Waxenbaum.

**Pam & Len Grossman** - In honor of the birth of Dylan Joseph Fucella.

**Marian & Rick Hyne** - In honor of the birth of Dylan Joseph Fucella.

**Ruth & Andy Spitz** - In celebration of the the birth of our grandson, Dylan Joseph Fucella, son of Becky & Tom Fucella.

**Sharon & Preston Waxenbaum** - In celebration of the birth of our grand-nephew, Dylan Joseph Fucella.

**Pam & Len Grossman** - In memory of Jerry Glazier.

**Pam & Len Grossman** - In memory of Randy Bobrow.

**Pam & Len Gross** - In memory of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

**Lisa Semel** - In memory of Bill Diefenbacher.

**Marian & Rick Hyne** - In memory of Bill Diefenbacher.

And now for your listening pleasure...

Several *Chanukah* selections from two delightful Jewish *a cappella* groups, The Maccabeats and Six13:



Copy the links below and paste into your browser!

**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>

**Ruth & Andy Spitz** - In memory of our beloved friend, Bill Diefenbacher.

**Sharon & Preston Waxenbaum** - In memory of our beloved friend, Bill Diefenbacher.

**Heidi & Larry Lapila** - In memory of Bill Diefenbacher.

**Carol & Michael Emerson** - In memory of Bill Diefenbacher.

**Denise & Brian Dickstein** - In memory of Bill Diefenbacher.

**Pam & Lenny Grossman** - In memory of Bill Diefenbacher.

**Becky & Tom Fucella, Amy Spitz & Alan Khorshidi, Robbie Spitz** - In memory of Bill Diefenbacher.

**Carol & Larry Bojarski** - In memory of Bill Diefenbacher.

**Ruth & Andy Spitz** - In memory of Gladys Feigenbaum.

**Sharon & Preston Waxenbaum** - In memory of Gladys Feigenbaum.

**Denise & Brian Dickstein** - In memory of Gladys Feigenbaum.

**Sandy & Peter Patten** - In memory of Gladys Feigenbaum.

**Lisa Grove Raider** - In memory of Gladys Feigenbaum.

**The Rischall Family** - In memory of Gladys Feigenbaum.