

The Shofar



November 2017
Cheshvan-Kislev 5777

A Message from Rabbi Jordi

A red carpet woven with our vision for the future...



I shall never forget the advice of one of the teachers who taught me how to make straight lines on the blackboard. "Do not look at the chalk," he said, "but look at the point where you want to go instead."

During our lives, we encounter many obstacles. As a nation, we have encountered numerous obstacles. And, on the other hand, in our daily lives, over time, we have been able to cultivate a long-term vision, driven by hope and focused on actions necessary for creating the future. As I think about our community, a fitting line (paraphrased) from the book *Illusions*, by Richard Bach, keeps coming back to me: "We teach best that which we most need to learn."

Building hope is the study of Torah; building a future is to live the commandments and to live by them. Whenever I mention "commandments," I am hesitant. One might mistakenly assume that I am referring to a rigid system, the "law of a jealous G-d," as depicted by some, but a far cry from the experience of our ancestors who referred to the Divine law three times: "and you shall live by them (the commandments)" (Lev 18:5). With these words our ancestors taught us that the commandments define our daily lives, directing us to build a better life, refining every detail of our lives with regard for the well-being of ourselves and others, for the present and the future, *l'dor vador* — from generation to generation.

Or some can think I am referring to a system conceived by others where fear dominates; where each detail is so important that it can overshadow respect for others; a system that claims, in defiance of history, having always been as it is today. This claim is neither historically accurate, nor constructive. The vision we, as Jews, cherish, is that of Hillel: "Do not do unto your neighbor what you would not want done to yourself. This is the whole Torah. The rest is

commentary. Now go and study it." Ours is the constructive dialogue that began with Abraham and continues on, building a bridge between our daily Jewish reality and Jewish ideals and values. This is the type of dialogue that invites us to reach for greater heights, that invites us to celebrate the successes of today and to face the challenges of tomorrow, to have a bigger vision, to work for the future — for our own sake and our children's. This is what our ancestors passed on to us through Torah.

We hear the phrase *l'dor vador* several times in our liturgy, stressing the importance of teaching our children. But I have learned that we can often learn much more about our tradition through an active involvement in our children's learning than we can ever hope to teach. Teaching Torah from "generation to generation" should never be seen as a one-way street.

This is what the Makabim (Maccabees) did, inviting us to rejoice in the freedom to inaugurate the new temple — Chanukah — and to cultivate the right to spiritual freedom throughout the ages.

The invitation of the Torah continues up to the

generation that saw the darkness, like Viktor Frankl and Bruno Bettelheim and many others who went through the worst and survived to pass their teachings on to future generations. We are those future generations. We are aware of the challenges ahead.

As I referred to in the beginning, yes — I firmly believe we do teach best what we most need to learn. By seeing Judaism again, through the eyes of our children, we can come to see our faith as they do, and experience the pride in our history and traditions as they do. Through them, many of our families keep some Jewish practice, and our children, in turn, see Jewish pride reflected in all of our families in the enthusiasm and dedication they bring twice a week to our classrooms.

May we be able to meet these challenges, in spite of everything, sustained by inspiration from our ancestors, driven by the need to transform these challenges into sources of life for our successors, all at CBT-BI.



Thoughts from Your Team

If you're headed in the wrong direction, G-d allows U-turns (Aish.com) . What a lovely idea.

We are your leadership team, and we worry about where we are driving...

We talk and think a lot about directions — new ones, old ones, single ones, many ones. Context, collaboration, confusion, confession, creation, crashing...

We try to understand our congregation: Who are we? Where are we going? What do we need? What do we want? What should we do? When? How do we fit in?

We wonder how to get the best answers to those questions. We wonder even more what the right questions are. We acknowledge that we need help and wonder where the best place to get that help is.

We need advisors and we are advisors. We need decision makers, and we are decision makers

We strive to offer kindness and diligence, care and compassion. Sometimes we need support and encouragement, too (but our Jewish guilt doesn't let us ask)

We know that some people want change — so we try new things

We hear some people are upset — because we did something different

We try to be even-handed and open-minded — and are criticized for not being directive

We offer a new direction, and are chastised for not doing something as it has always been done

We dream of our perfect "Jewish Home"

We cherish CBT-BI — for all of us

Our goal is to find the right direction — please help us

And if we need to make a U-turn — please understand

— Lynn, Beth, Marcy and Leora



We asked our members:

What's on Your Bucket List?

- ★ To visit the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, before we move from this area! — *Randi Wolf*
- ★ To visit the 50 states (so far I have done about 32)
- ★ To have the time to learn something new, such as chess, bridge, etc. — *Leora Rothschild*
- ★ Play keyboard
- ★ Play clarinet like Pete Fountain
- ★ Be Auntie Mame with our grandchildren...for at least one trip
- ★ Learn how to paint shadows with acrylics — *Donna Blocher*
- ★ A return trip to Israel with friends — *Paul Bunkin*
- ★ I want to hike with my son Robert to the Santa Rosa Plateau in the Santa Ana Mountains in Southern California. Thirty years ago we were alone on the plateau and it was the most beautiful part of nature I have had the privilege to enjoy. If Robert and I find the time to go, maybe our friend the meadowlark will sing for us again. — *Betty London*



CBT-BI Sisterhood Presents:



HOLIDAY BAZAAR!

The holidays are right around the corner! Don't miss out!

WHEN: Sunday, December 3rd
9AM to 1PM

WHERE: CBT-BI

Unique gifts ideas for everyone!

(including but not limited to...)

Jewelry Gift Shopping for Children

Judaica items Refreshments Gift cards

And many more vendors to be announced!



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Mazel Tov to the Class of 2016-17 B'nai Mitzvah

Saul Ronsayro

Shaul Etzer — June 3 — Parsha Nasso

Saul is the oldest of three children. He has two sisters, Sasha and Sydney. Saul loves fishing, soccer, coin collecting, and archery. He is a member of the 4-H club and is very devoted to his two pet goats. It is not surprising that his bar mitzvah project was collecting money for Heifer International, an organization that provides livestock to needy families so they can feed and support themselves.

Saul said that the biggest challenge to becoming a bar mitzvah was learning the Torah and Haftarah. He said that preparing for his bar mitzvah helped make him a smarter person. Saul thanks his mom and dad, tutor Rebecca, and his teachers and rabbi.



Alexandria (Alex) Kulback

Aleeza — June 10 — Parsha Beha'alotecha

Alex is the oldest of three girls. Her sisters are Macaela and Samantha. Alex is quiet and polite, and an excellent student who managed to put up with being the only girl in her Hebrew school class all these years. Her mitzvah project was helping out at the Voorhees Pediatric Facility, where she learned a lot.

Alex said that the biggest challenge to becoming a bat mitzvah was memorizing all the prayers and the Torah and Haftarah portions. Getting up in front of the congregation was not easy, especially for someone very shy. She said preparing for her bat mitzvah helped her learn a deeper meaning of mitzvah and Torah. She sends a special thank-you to her parents.

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Shop at Five Below — Raise Money for CBT-BI

Here's an easy way to raise money for the synagogue: Shop at Five Below! CBT-BI will get 10% of purchases made at the Five Below stores in Turnersville, Deptford, and Crosskeys Commons. Shoppers must present a coupon (available on our website) when they shop. Coupon is valid for specified dates only. Click [here](#) or visit the events listings on cbtbi.org to get the coupon.

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Michael Flax

Mendel — August 19 — Parsha Re'eh

Michael's mitzvah project was working at Top Sports, an organization that helps children with challenges participate in sports. It's not surprising that Michael's party was held at a baseball stadium, since he has been an avid ball player for years, and enjoys baseball, football, basketball, and sports video games.

Michael said that the biggest challenge for him was learning his Haftarah, but that preparing for his bar mitzvah helped make him more confident with Hebrew. He gives a special thanks to his tutor Eve and teacher Jana, as well as his parents for driving him everywhere. His sister Rachael was one of Rabbi Jordi's first bat mitzvah students, so it was nice for her to be on the bimah with him again.



Tyler Conlin

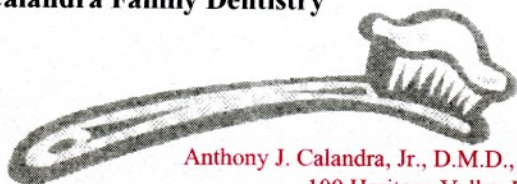
Shimone — October 21 — Parsha Noah

Tyler had the same parsha as his brother Drew and sister Bianca... we wonder if Spencer and Owen will choose parsha Noah as well in years to come? Tyler's bar mitzvah comes after the many holidays of Tishrei and in the middle of soccer season, so it was a challenge to finish all the preparations for his service between his busy schedule and the rabbi's.

Tyler is always doing mitzvot — taking care of his baby brothers — but he also worked with The Miracle League. He said the biggest challenge for him to becoming a bar mitzvah was learning all the Hebrew. He is not a big fan of being up on the bimah, but pushed himself to do this. Preparing for his bar mitzvah helped him become more familiar with the prayers and gave him more confidence. Special thanks to his parents.

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The Shofar

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Ethan Roth

Etan Adom Shamul — October 28 — Lech Lecha

Ethan has worked on many mitzvah projects over the years, including community cleanup at local parks, food drives; assisting with the Glassboro VFW for Flag Day, Wreath Remembrance Day at the Gloucester County Veteran Cemetery, and the Memorial Day Parade; and collecting donations for Angels of God in Pitman, Habitat for Humanity, Hearts against Cancer, Alex's Lemonade Stand, and the Gloucester County Animal Shelter, among others. He is in the National Junior Honor Society and plays soccer and baseball.

Ethan has two rescue dogs, Eggie and Chewie. He said the biggest challenge to becoming a bar mitzvah was learning Haftarah, and he looked forward to celebrating with his relatives, many of whom traveled long distances to attend.

Preparing for his bar mitzvah has helped him become a young adult. He thanks his family, friends, Rabbi Jordi, Lori Samilson, Jana Schachter, his CBT-BI teachers and staff, and Mrs. Marder.



Mazel tov to Beth Lindenbaum, who will celebrate her bat mitzvah on November 4. Her profile, along with those of her classmates from the class of 2017-18, will appear in future issues of the Shofar.

Hebrew School Happenings



At the Cheshvan school assembly on October 18, Mrs. Marder, Principal, presented the first Chai Award of the year to Shoshanna Harris for attending 18 Friday night services. Mazel tov, Shoshanna!

Grades K-4 and Confirmation can get any combination of 18 Fridays and Saturdays to receive this award. Their minimum commitment is four Fridays and four Saturdays.

Grades 5-7 need 18 of either a Friday or a Saturday. Their minimum commitment is eight Fridays and eight Saturdays.

Bob's Garage



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Hebrew School Happenings

At the community Sukkot celebration, students made Hanukkah cards for Israel soldiers, built edible sukkot, and enjoyed refreshments in the synagogue Sukkah.





Door Prizes!

Sunday, December 3, 2017
Glassboro VFW Post 679
 275 Wilmer St, corner of Sewell Street, Glassboro, NJ

Doors Open: 5:00 pm • Bingo Starts 6:30 pm
Tickets: \$35
Reserve a Table of 8 at the Reduced Price of \$260!

Donation includes 1 set of Bingo sheets for 10 Games, 4 faces per game
 Extra Game sheet sets sold at door; 1 for \$10 or 3 for \$25

Complimentary Soda Bar & Dessert Buffet
 Bring Your Own Dinner and/or Snacks

To Purchase Tickets:
 Send check(s) payable to "CBT-BI"
 with names of attendees to:
 Steve Blocher, 260 Night Hawk Circle, Thorofare, NJ 08086
 For more info: email Donna - dib4ed@gmail.com
 or Diane - ashapdee@msn.com

Silent Auction!

50/50 & Basket Raffles



No alcohol permitted by state law
 Must be 18 or older to enter facility.

All Proceeds Benefit Children & Youth Education
 Registration #: 524-2-18417