



From the President's Desk by Joshua Meyer

An Appeal to Our Members



Editor's note: This is an abridged version of the appeal presented at Yom Kippur. At Josh's request, it is being repeated here, as you can never ask for money too many times!

L'Shana Tovah! On the eve of Yom Kippur it is the tradition at many synagogues for

the president of the congregation to step to the bimah, hold up an envelope and ask all congregants to turn down one of the pledge choices on the card inside.

Why not continue to enhance our beautiful temple and continue the dreams and ideas of Al Schachter and our previous board? One of their many accomplishments was to decorate this sanctuary with refurbished pews, new pads, and new carpeting.

Perhaps one person had the ability to write a check for this entire project. That's correct — one person could have done that. But that's not who we are at Congregation B'nai Tikvah Beth Israel. We are a group of many members who work together. Combining together is what makes us successful at CBTBI.

Over the years, many presidents walked to our bimah from various places in this sanctuary to deliver a Yom Kippur Presentation Appeal. This president came from the choir. There, I am part of a large group — one of many voices. Many voices together.

After becoming President I was asked to write the President's Message for this year's Community Directory. I was inspired by our numerous committees to come up with a new group of words for our CBTBI acronym: Congregants Binding Together Building

Interconnectivity. Interconnectivity: the state or quality of being connected together. We have 68 committees and subcommittees. Many committees, many members working together, with many missions, all of which contribute to our temple. One mission is to contribute to our children's religious education. Our children's religious education stands for our future, our children's future. It represents our continued existence.

Another mission is to contribute to our oneg room. Let's beautify our oneg room. Why not? It's used more than any other part of our synagogue. Our place to share wine and bread following services. Our place to enhance our membership and social activities. Our place to celebrate b'nai mitzvot. Our place to share all wonderful mitzvahs and simchas. Our place to join with our hands together as we celebrate our Jewish culture. Our place for our children to have a religious service.

We're not just one person who sits on a board of directors making decisions for the betterment of our congregation, or just one person who clears our outside beds in preparation for Shabbat and High Holidays. Or just one person who prepares our onegs and cleans up afterward. Or just one person who develops and organizes much-needed fundraising events. Or just one person who plans our educational activities for our children. Or just one person who changes our weekly prayer books to our High Holiday books. Or just one person who builds a sukkah. Or just one person who sits on our Bikur Cholim Committee and decides how we can pay our respects and give our support to those who are ill or those families who have lost a loved one. Or just one person who sits on our Ritual Committee to organize this magnificent service and all of our services throughout the year. Or just one person who searches for our new spiritual leader. Or just one person who is singing with a choir of many.



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A Tale Of Two Rabbis by One Delighted President

How fortunate we are to have interim Rabbi David Levin with us while we await the arrival of Rabbi Rachel Schoenfeld, who will begin her spiritual leadership of CBTBI on January 8, 2019. Rabbi David has given us spiritual guidance, explanations of our prayers, and meaningful, thought-provoking sermons focused on kindness to each other. He will continue until the end of December. Rabbi Rachel is so thrilled to



begin what I am sure will be enthusiastic and exciting pursuit of our Jewish endeavors, continued development of the pride we must have for our Jewish

heritage and our children's spiritual growth. Thank you Search Committee! We at Congregation B'nai Tikvah Beth Israel are ready for new spiritual leadership. Are we ready to be led? Are we ready to be exceptionally kind to our new rabbi and each other? The answer is absolutely yes. How do I know? Because we are exceptional. Because we are a group of caring and kind people.

Have a happy November, a happy Thanksgiving, and get ready for a happy Hanukkah! Hope to see you at the next religious service and the next oneg.

— Josh



President's Message *Continued from Page 1*

We are not just one person. We are Congregants Binding Together Building Interconnectivity.

So everyone turn down one choice of pledge on the pledge card. Whatever is comfortable for you. Please also join us and participate in one committee. That is something. Give one hour to a committee event. That is something. Buy a gift card one time. Attend Shabbat services one more time than you had planned. That is something. Bring in one box of cereal for Peter's Pantry. That's something. Say something kind to your fellow member. How do think that makes them feel? How do think it would make you feel? That is something.

And all of our members from other affiliations who remain supportive of their husbands, wives, partners, and children who are Jewish. You are unconditionally giving. That's really a big something. And our guests for

the High Holidays. We are so privileged that they chose to be with us. We want them back. They are always welcome here.

We are all the Jewish Community. We are the Jewish Heritage. We all are the Jewish Presence. Our CBTBI temple sits on a small hill. We are the Jewish children, the Jewish women, and the Jewish men, and our partners of many backgrounds. We are inside. We are here. We are together.

Make a pledge if you haven't had the opportunity to do so. Mail it in. Join in something.

CBTBI is only five letters long, but it is our interconnectivity, our many committees, our many kind words to each other, and our many voices chanting and singing that makes us strong.

L'Shana Tovah



A Message from Our Education Director



It is my hope, as your education director, that in the midst of teaching prayers, the teachers and I are also teaching the meaning and the beauty of taking time out from our busy days to appreciate our world and all who are in it. We try to make prayer mindful, not just rote,

make it melodic and spiritual, not just words.

When I see parents sitting with their children at services, I know they are experiencing a special time, unplugged and just being together.

No matter what we teach in our curriculum, I hope that this is the message that stays with our children as they grow into adulthood. I am so proud of my first students at B'nai Tikvah from as long ago as 33 years, who are now bringing their children and are also involved in our synagogue. So much love and dedication in our small community from all our congregants and staff. The poems below, which have been posted outside my office for many years, reflect these feelings. We are truly blessed.

— Wendy Marder



The Difference (No Time to Pray)

*I woke up early one morning,
And rushed right into the day,
I had so much to accomplish,
That I didn't have time to pray.*

*Problems just tumbled about me,
And heavier came each task,
"Why doesn't G-d help me?" I wondered,
G-d answered, "You didn't ask."*

*I wanted to see joy and beauty,
But the day toiled on, grey and bleak,
I wondered why G-d didn't show me,
G-d said, "That you didn't seek."*

*I tried to come into G-d's presence,
I used all my keys at the lock,
G-d gently and lovingly chided,
"My child, you didn't knock."*

*I woke up early his morning,
And paused before entering the day,
I had so much to accomplish,
That I had to take time to pray.*

— Grace L. Naessens

May Our Doorway

*May the door of this synagogue be wide enough to
receive all who hunger for love, all who are lonely for friendship.*

*May it welcome all who have cares to unburden,
thanks to express, hopes to nurture.*

*May the door of this synagogue be narrow enough
to shut out pettiness and pride, envy and enmity.*

*May its threshold be no stumbling block
to young or straying feet.*

*May it be too high to admit complacency,
selfishness, and harshness.*

*May this synagogue be, for all who enter,
the doorway to a richer and more meaningful life.*

— Rabbi Sidney Greenberg



The Shofar

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Mazel TOV!

Congratulations to Our Recent B'not Mitzvah

Samara Fein — October 6, 2018

Hebrew name: Samara

Parsha: B'reisheet

Samara's family includes her parents, Julie and Jonathan, and her brother, Dylan, a sixth grader. Her mitzvah project was volunteering at an animal shelter and helping out at our Hebrew school as an aide. Reading from the Torah was the part of her bat mitzvah that she looked forward to the most. Samara enjoys singing and drawing in her spare time. She sends a special thank-you to Mrs. Nadel, one of her Hebrew school teachers.

From her speech: *"...I wish to live a long, fulfilling life with a loving family and a great community...The time with your family is important. Time is like an invisible clock ticking and ticking, endlessly counting, never stopping, always working until one day it stops. It gives no warning. It just stops.*

I like to spend time with my family because I never know when my clock will stop."



Rebecca Matz — October 20, 2018

Hebrew name: Rivkah Ilana

Parsha: Lech L'cha

Rebecca's family includes her parents, Miriam and Paul, and her younger sisters Ellie and Lilah. Her mitzvah project was making gift bags for the siblings of young cancer victims. The biggest challenge to becoming a bat mitzvah was learning all of the Hebrew. The part of her big day she most looked forward to was the service. Rebecca's favorite activities are art club, reading, and writing. She said her bat mitzvah helped her to learn more quickly, and she gives special thanks to all of her teachers and to her tutor, Dara.

From her speech: *"Abram is considered one of the greatest role models for the Jewish people. He was trustworthy, supportive, and ultimately set good examples... I, too, have many people in my life who share some of the qualities that Abram had. Some of my personal role models are my parents. They look out for me and make sure I am being safe. They believe in me and support what I do, and I can't thank them enough."*



An Evening of Fun and Prizes

**Thursday
November 29, 2018**

**Doors Open at 5 pm
BINGO Starts at 6:30 pm**

St. Charles Borromeo Church
176 Stagecoach Road, Sicklerville, NJ 08081

Ticket Price includes:

**1 set of bingo sheets
for 10 games with 4 faces per game**
(Extra game sheet sets sold at the door: 1 for \$5)

Door Prize ticket

**Complimentary Dessert Buffet
and first can of soda
or bottle of water**

Tickets: \$35

*Reserve a table of 8 at the
Reduced Price of \$260*

To Purchase Tickets:

**Send check(s) payable
to "CBTBI"**

Please write "BINGO" on the memo line of your check

with names of attendees to:

**Steve Blocher
260 Night Hawk Circle
Thorofare, NJ
08086**

**SILENT
AUCTION
&
DOOR
PRIZES**

For more information:

**email
Donna at
dib4ed@gmail.com
or
Diane at
ashapdee@msn.com**

**50/50
and
BASKET
RAFFLES**

**All proceeds
benefiting
Children & Youth
Education**

No Alcohol permitted by state law.
Must be 18 or older to enter the facility.
Registration ID#: **524-2-18417**



**115 East Holly Avenue
Sewell, NJ 08080
856-589-6550**



CBT-BI Sisterhood Presents:



HOLIDAY BAZAAR!

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

WHEN: Sunday, November 18th
9AM to 1PM

WHERE: CBT-BI

Unique gifts ideas for everyone!

(including but not limited to...)

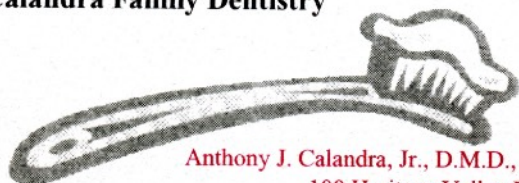
Jewelry Gift Shopping for Children

Judaica items Refreshments Gift cards

And many more vendors to be announced!



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