# A Message from Rabbi Rachel

The Fall Festivals and Forward



Haverim (friends),

Fall at CBTBI has been one festival after another. We celebrated Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah together. Some of my personal highlights were:

- The children's shofar choir on Rosh Hashanah
- A casual, kid-friendly night and service at Pizza in the Hut on Sukkot.
- The choir performing on Shemini Atzeret. (Don't know what Shemini Atzeret is? Look on myjewishlearning.com.)
- Rolling out the Torah the length of the sanctuary, and looking at the text together, on Simchat Torah.

The next Jewish holiday we are celebrating, Chanukah, isn't until December. And yet, there's much to look forward to at this time of the year. We just said the traveler's prayer with the group going to Israel, and are looking forward to having them lead services when they come back. The board will also be leading services soon! Our school classes will be helping to lead services on Friday evenings. And, we will be restarting "Shabbat B'Yachad" — a Shabbat celebration geared to adults and children of all ages.

See you soon at CBTBI!

Rabbi Rachel



### **October Celebrations**

It was a busy month for the kids! Along with holiday celebrations at CBTBI, the Katz JCC hosted its Fall Festival.

Left: Learning to hit the target at the JCC festival.

Below: Making an edible sukkah at CBTBI.

(Additional photos on Page 4.)



# From the President's Desk by Joshua Meyer

Kol Nidre Appeal





On behalf of our CBTBI board, I am privileged once again to wish L' Shana Tovah 5780 to all of our members and their families.

I am grateful for the enormous participation of so many of our congregants. We

consider this synagogue our own personal property. I am proud to be one of our many devoted members.

We all do our best to:

- send in our membership dues in a timely manner.
- pledge something for the Yom Kippur Appeal.
- support our much-needed fundraising events, gift cards program, and social action programs.
- work on a variety of different committees with scores of dedicated members, headed by chairpersons who are the heart of the synagogue.

My father, Morris Meyer, was a wise man. He was a religious man. He always said that when it comes to the observance of our religion, "You do what you can do." Some maintain a religious and kosher home, observe all of our holidays, and attend services weekly. Some give generously, and give of their time extensively. Others give what they can and give whatever time they have. You do what you can do.

When the president of the congregation stands before you to ask for a pledge on the most solemn religious day of the Jewish year, for some it may be a huge *turn off*.

Possibly you thought, "Do the leaders of this congregation ever stop asking for money?" The answer is NO. We can't afford to. Our treasurer, Allison Harris, and our financial secretary, Todd Wilen, worry constantly about our financial obligations and spend months meeting with our Finance Committee to balance our budget.

Compared to many other congregations in South Jersey, our membership fees and tuition are significantly lower.

In our budget, we still depend heavily on the Yom Kippur Appeal. We appeal to you to make a pledge. We appeal to you to consider turning down a tab on your pledge card to help us reach our goal.

But enough for turning off.

Let's focus on turning on.

The lights above us need to be turned on. The air conditioner or heater needs to be turned on. The plumbing needs to run properly. This 60-year-old building needs repairs to its electric, air conditioning, plumbing, or other things that we won't know about until repairs are needed. Something always needs to be fixed in order to turn it on.

Some give generously, and give of their time extensively. Others give what they can and give whatever time they have. You do what you can do.

We also have a staff of people who are essential to the needs of this entire congregation:

- Rabbi Rachel, whose spiritual enthusiasm is contagious and her rabbinic teachings so informative.
- Wendy Marder, our school principal, is a strong and highly competent educator who has guided hundreds of students to excellence.
- CBTBI's teachers, who are dedicated to the Jewish education of our children.
- Steve Blocher, our executive director, who does everything for our synagogue from managing our building to writing grants and more.
- Judy Finneran, our administrative assistant, who does 101 different tasks for our synagogue and school at the same time at a very high level.

Continued on Page 3







## From the President's Desk Continued from Page 2

 Herb Horowitz, our custodian, who we need to have here more, but our budget will only permit having him part time.

And now, we live in a world in which we must be extremely concerned about the security and safety of our members. You've noticed the police presence, ushers, monitors, the metal main doors (and more are needed). It wasn't long ago that we all just walked into the unlocked doors of our synagogue. That time has passed. Nothing will scare us away. However, this results in additional, necessary costs.

This house of worship that sits here on a small hill is turned on because of the dedication and devotion of our members.

It may be a small hill, but it is *our* hill. We are here for our members who come from many surrounding communities.

We are *turned on* because you all care.

We are turned on because you do what you can do.

But enough for infrastructure, costs, etc. Let's discuss the most valued turn-on of all. We, the

members, strive for a spiritual life. We strive to worship, to strengthen our Jewish identity and to preserve our Jewish heritage. We, the members, do this as we strive to repair the world for the future — Tikkun Olam — to make the world a better place.

So, as we plan for the future, let's mention our most precious need for the future of our Jewish culture: the children of this congregation. These children are the responsibility of their parents and of this CBTBI community. All of us need to be committed to the children of CBTBI. Our children must learn about their Jewish identity to continue our Jewish heritage.

Think about the positive.

Turn off turning off. Turn on turning on.

See the eternal light, always turned on in our sanctuary above our ark. It glows for all of us. Let's commit and keep the spark glowing.

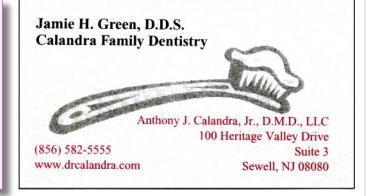
My dad taught me it was our obligation as Jews to give to your religion, synagogue, and charity.

Please — do what you can do.

Please — mail in your pledge.

### **November Events**

- Tuesday, 12th: Lamp Post Diner Fundraiser
- Friday, 15th: Kinder Shabbat, 6:15 PM
- Sunday, 17th: PTO Skating Event, 12:30 PM
- Friday, 22nd: Shabbat Service Honoring Veterans, 7 PM
- Sunday, 24th: Designer Bags & Accessories Bingo,
   5 PM doors open; 6:30 PM Bingo starts



# Bob's Garage



American & Foreign Car Repair Alignment - Tune Ups Towing - State Inspection

#### **Bob Holshue**

236 Delsea Drive • Sewell, New Jersey 08080 856-589-5055

## The Shofar

Editor: Lisa Parker editor@cbtbi.org

The Shofar is published four times a year. Please contact the editor for deadline information.

### Congregation B'nai Tikvah-Beth Israel

115 East Holly Avenue, Sewell, NJ 08080 (856) 589-6550 • info@cbtbi.org • www.cbtbi.org

# october Photo Album



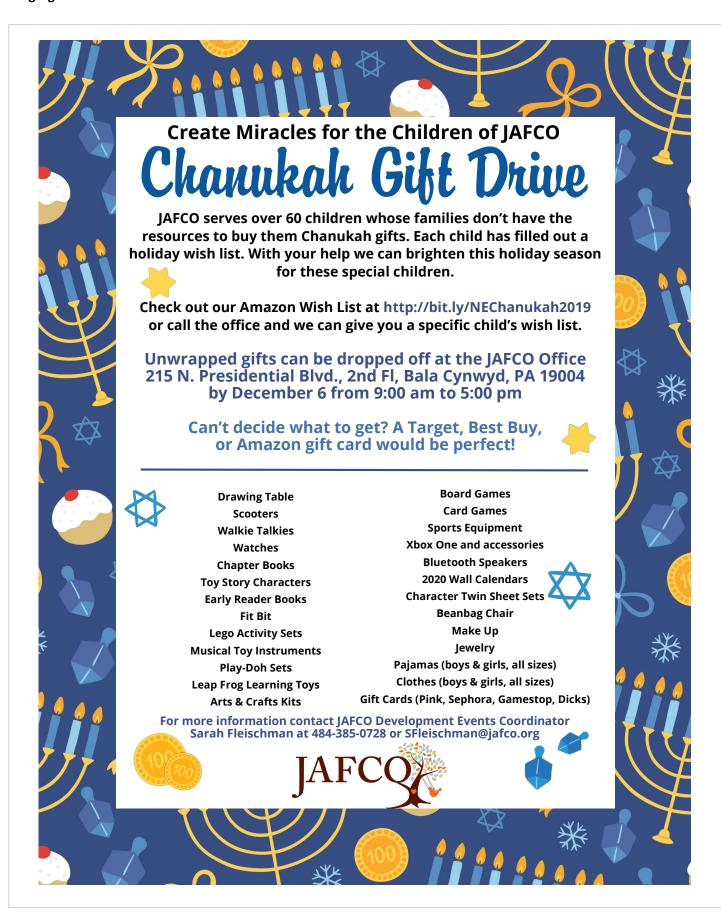
### Clockwise, from top left:

- At the JCC Fall Festival, our members greet visitors to the CBTBI table.
- Hebrew school students pose with their edible sukkot.
- Taking aim during the JCC festival.
- Shake that lulav! Mrs. Marder leads students in a Sukkot tradition.











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** 

ashapdee@msn.com



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