

# Cheshvan/Kislev 5785

# December 2024

## Congregation Beth Israel

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From the Cantor's Desk

With the 2024 election behind us, we are heading into the secular holiday period with a variety of emotions. Some may be looking forward to the new year excitedly with high expectations for change. Some may be anxiously looking ahead afraid of the direction of the changes. Some may be indifferent or of the view that whoever is in Washington, our state and local governments have little effect on our personal lives.

Without advocating for any particular stance or policy, I feel compelled to comment on what is causing me great anxiety – that is the demeaning and dehumanizing of the “other” that seems to be spreading in our public discourse. Regardless of whether one thinks that undocumented immigrants in this country should be deported, none of us should be comfortable with labeling such people as murderers, thieves, psychopaths or other demeaning terms. Any check of facts will show that the crimes that we experience cannot generally be laid at the feet of undocumented immigrants. But such labels and libels make it easier for the rest of us to justify whatever harsh and inhuman measures may be taken. The language used in describing immigrants, words such as “vermin,” “animals,” “insane,” “criminal” and in conspiracy to weaken the country – should raise alarm bells for us in the Jewish community.

This is the kind of language that has been used so often to allow inhuman treatment by one group of another. Most of us have no moral quandary about exterminating rats or roaches, so calling a group of people “vermin” plays into the psychology that would allow extermination of the people. It is the language and attitude that allowed so many people in World War II to ignore or participate in the deportation and execution of the Jews of Europe. The same language justified Americans we would not generally say were cruel, sadists or sociopathic to condone and participate in such things as enslavement and abuse of blacks, relocation and “re-education” of Native Americans, internment of Japanese Americans, human trafficking and torture of suspected Islamic terrorists. In the book Ordinary Men (Harper Collins, 2017), Christopher R. Browning, a professor of history at Pacific Lutheran University, documented the activities of Reserve Police Battalion 101 of the German Order Police which was tasked with rounding up, deporting and executing the Jews of Poland and Lithuania. Browning points out that many of these ordinary, middle-aged working-class men were not fanatical Nazis but came to carry out atrocities, mass executions and deportations “out of a mixture of motives, including group dynamics of conformity, deference to authority, role adaption and the altering of moral norms to justify their actions.”

We can debate immigration or any other policy or opinion about the state of the world and what changes are needed, but let's do so without demoting the “other” to less than status. As Jews, we have been on the receiving end of this treatment too many times in history not to understand the effects. No matter how much we may disagree with the opinion or actions of another, I exhort us to remember that such person is also human, and we should each strive to follow the teaching of the great rabbi Hillel – “that which is hateful to you, do not do to another.” “That is the entire Torah,” he said, “the rest is interpretation.”

# HADASSAH

## **IDF Representative Thanks Hadassah Hospitals**

Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari of the Israel Defense Forces visited Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem in October to recognize and express gratitude for the exceptional dedication of the Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO)'s teams in treating war casualties.

Meeting with Prof. Yoram Weiss, HMO director general, Rear Admiral Hagari acknowledged the crucial work undertaken by Hadassah's staff, including the advanced surgical and rehabilitative care provided to soldiers injured in recent conflicts.

Since October 7, 2023, Hadassah has seen a significant influx of casualties from combat zones in both the south and north of Israel, with patients undergoing complex, lifesaving procedures and receiving extensive rehabilitative support. Prof. Weiss presented a comprehensive overview of the medical and technological advancements the institution employs, such as robotics-assisted surgeries and cutting-edge technologies used in its operating rooms. He emphasized the organization's commitment to treating each patient with the utmost urgency and care.

Central to the long-term recovery process is the Gandel Rehabilitation Center at Hadassah Hospital Mount Scopus, where wounded soldiers begin their recovery journey.

## PERSONAL

*May you find comfort among the mourners of Zion & Jerusalem.  
May their memory be a blessing.*

- **Edward Jay Halpern**, 67, of Middletown— (nephew of members Dr. Joseph Clark {Judith Clark} & Donald Clark), passed away peacefully at home on October 29, 2024. He waged an 11-year courageous battle against three rounds of lung cancer.
- **Harry Rodin** of Fredericksburg— passed away on November 6, 2024.

## SEMI-ANNUAL

## CONGREGATION MEETING

**Monday, Jan 27th at 7PM will be HYBRID.**

**For those unavailable to attend in person, a zoom link will be available.**

**It is IMPORTANT that all members attend to share their thoughts, and hear about the future of CBI.**



# JOSEPH & GERTRUDE JEWISH FILM STUDIES



Sun Dec 8 at 1PM—Featuring: *Ever Again*

EVER AGAIN, narrated by Kevin Costner is a documentary examining the resurgence of anti-Semitism today Examining the the shift from traditional anti-Semitism of the right to the new anti -Semitism on the extreme left exposes the dangerous Islamic extremism being preached in European and United States cities. A wake up call for all. ( This is a film of the Simon Weisenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies )

## MONTHLY CBI BOOK CLUB

The next CBI book group will meet on Wed, Dec. 18, 2024 @7:30pm via ZOOM only. Judith Clark will lead a discussion of "The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem" by Sarit Yishai-Levi. This finalist for the Book Club category of the 2016 National Jewish Book Awards and #1 International Best Seller

CHAG SAMEACH!

Happy  
Hanukkah

JOIN US ON THURSDAY, DEC 26TH AT 4:30PM  
FOR OUR HANUKKAH CELEBRATION!

Congregation Beth Israel

Lebanon, PA

**President of the Month: Judith Clark**  
**Next Month: Stu Perlmutter**

**December 2024**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9AMMinyan/ Hybrid	2	3	4	5 7:30AM Min- yan/ Hybrid	6 CL 4:34 PM 7:30PM Service/ Hybrid	7 9:30AM Service/ Hybrid
8 9AMMinyan/ Hybrid  MOVIE 1 PM	9	10	11	12 7:30AM Min- yan/ Hybrid	13 CL 4:34 PM 7:30PM Service/ Hybrid	14 9:30AM Service/ Hybrid
15 9AMMinyan/ Hybrid <i>Moment Magazine to follow</i>	16 <b>BULLETIN DEADLINE</b>	17	18 <b>Book Club 7:30PM zoom</b>	19 7:30AM Min- yan/ Hybrid	20 CL 4:37 PM 7:30PM Service/ Hybrid	21 9:30AM Service/ Hybrid
22 9AMMinyan/ Hybrid	23 <b>BOARD MEETING 7PM</b>	24	25 <b>Office Closed</b> <b>HCL: 5:09P</b>  <i>Erev Hanuakkah</i>	26 7:30AM Min- yan/ Hybrid Hanukkah Cele- bration at 4:30PM <b>HCL: 5:09P</b>	27 <b>HCL: 4:41P</b> 7:30PM Service/ Hybrid <i>Hanukkah</i>	28 9:30AM Service/ Hybrid <b>HCL: 5:32P</b>  <i>Hanukkah</i>
29 9AMMinyan/ Hybrid <b>HCL: 5:11P</b>  <i>Hanukkah</i>	30 <b>HCL: 5:12P</b> <i>Hanukkah</i>	31 <b>HCL: 5:13P</b> <i>Hanukkah</i>	<b>JAN 1, 2025</b>  <b>HCL: 5:14 P</b> Hanuuakah/ New Years Day			

**Let's Celebrate our Members with  
 December Birthdays & Anniversaries!**

Jesse Pleet, ESQ

Malcolm Lazin

Deborah Grosky

Dr. Joseph Clark

Ray Wolfson

Fred & Kathy  
 Wolfson

Bruce & Miriam  
 Yeamans

Stephen & Cheri  
 Kaplan

## Y A H R Z E I T S



<i>Kislev</i>	<i>Dec</i>	
4	5	Herbert Levy-- Father of Ruth Guyer
4	5	Sevia Finkelstein-- Mother of Stuart Finkelstein & Stanton Finkelstein
5	6	Frederick Ballen-- Father of Maxine Jones & Marcia Fisch
7	8	Selma Clark-- Wife of Donald Clark
7	8	Henry Breitstein-- Father of Norma Segal
8	9	Brett Shankroff-- Son of Benjamin Shankroff
8	9	Gail Ostrow Berman-- Mother of Carolyn Frankhauser
8	9	Constance Lokyitch-- Mother of Robin Haller
9	10	Marilyn Gordon-- Mother of Susan Martin
10	11	Stephen Paul Freed- Husband of Vera Freed
11	12	Meyer Weintraub-- Father of Bert Weintraub
11	12	Suzanne Shankroff-- Wife of Benjamin Shankroff
12	13	Barbara Shattls-- Aunt of Trudy Shattls & Fred Shattls
13	14	Melville Bode-- Grandfather of Dr. Susan Medalie
14	15	Rachel Lyn Grosky-- Daughter of Aaron Grosky
16	17	Richard Staffieri- partner of Lucille Baron
16	17	Linda Fenner-- Wife of Terry Fenner & Sister of Blossom Leibowitz and Irma Braman
17	18	Rachel Stadiem-- Sister of Sara Schneider & Mother of Debbie Kessler
17	18	Sophie Miller-- Mother of Irma Braman & Blossom Leibowitz
18	19	Norman Schaffer-- Father of Jim Schaffer & Thomas Schaffer
22	23	Dr. Dean Lorich-- Son-in-Law of Dr & Mrs Joseph Clark
22	23	Betty Heiligman-- Friend of Eta Glassman & Joni Kantor
23	24	Kitty Glaser-- Mother of Miss Shirley Glaser
27	28	Sylvia Gildar-- Sister of Dr. Irvin Orel

O u r t h a n k s f o r R e m e m b e r i n g  
B e t h I s r a e l i n N o v e m b e r

### Y A H R Z E I T S:

Benjamin Shankroff

Max Ballen Fisch

Lucille Baron

Janet Klompus Sligh

Ina Hankin

Ruth Guyer

### CLARK YOUTH FUND

Dr & Mrs Joseph Clark

**UJA — We are currently at \$1,300**

Our goal is to reach \$2,500 this year

***Check MUST be made payable to: Lebanon United Jewish Community***

**Thank you to our recent donors:**

- Arnold, Eileen
- Clark, Judith & Joseph
- Greenebaum, Ed & Sharon
- Griffiths, Diane B.
- Horowitz, Fred & Judy
- Magdule, Robert & Diane
- Pleet, Jesse
- Shankroff, Benjamin
- Shankroff, Stan
- Shattls, Fred & Bernie
- Slotznick, Ben & Christine



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Check our website for more [www.congregation-beth-israel.org](http://www.congregation-beth-israel.org)

MAILING SECTION ONLY

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