



תקותינו TIKVATENU



ISRAEL CENTER OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

Volume XX - No.4

JANUARY 2022

TEVETH/SHEVAT 5782

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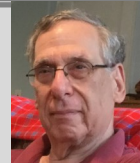
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LET OUR FAMILY WELCOME YOURS

MESSAGE FROM CO-PRESIDENTS

DAVID SCHWARTZ AND SAM WEISS



Fellow Congregants,

Welcome to 2022 and a year that hopefully will be optimistic and wonderful for all of you and your families along with ICCJ. While we remain vigilant to ensure that we take precautions with Covid, we also want to be physically together wherever possible and use Zoom and Livestreaming as a supplement to participate.

On a positive note, we reinstated our Friday Night Shabbat Dinners which began on December 3rd. It is an opportunity to have a joyous in-Shul Maariv Service together followed by a delicious social meal. We hope to be able to continue these dinners in the future. To work off some of the calories, we have restarted our Pool and Gym Program which includes Congregational Swim times, along with innovative additions such as "Water Aerobics".

Our physical building is still in the process of repairs and maintenance along with enhancements, such as all new gym lockers. As ICCJ is our religious and social home away from home; we also plan to update and further beautify our interior and exterior.

On a final note, as part of the larger community, our Social Action Committee continues to have programs that truly make us "a light onto the world".

Thanks to all who have helped and continue to make ICCJ an enjoyable wonderful Shul.

Regards,

David and Sam



Monday, January 10 - Sisterhood Bingo - 7:30 PM

Saturday, January 8 - Tot Shabbat - 10:30 AM

Sunday, January 9 - Sisterhood - Off-Broadway Virtual Event

Eva: A Survivor's Tale - 7:00 PM

Monday, January 17 - Young Families Event - 12:30 PM

Tu B'Shvat Seder - 7:00 PM

Saturday, January 22 - Tot Shabbat - 10:30 AM

Sunday, February 6 - World Wide Wrap - 9:30 AM

FROM OUR RABBI: Rabbi Moshe Saks



During this Pandemic, the one constant has been our weekly Shabbat service. Please read, for your edification, an important piece from Abraham Joshua Heschel, about the importance of Shabbat.



Judaism is a religion of time aiming at the sanctification of time. Unlike the space-minded man to whom time is unvaried, iterative, homogeneous, to whom all hours are alike, quality-less, empty shells, the Bible senses the diversified character of time. There are no two hours alike. Every hour is unique and the only one given at the moment, exclusive and endlessly precious.

Judaism teaches us to be attached to holiness in time, to be attached to sacred events, to learn how to consecrate sanctuaries that emerge from the magnificent stream of a year. The Sabbaths are our great cathedrals; and our Holy of Holies is a shrine that neither the Romans nor the Germans were able to burn; a shrine that even apostasy cannot easily obliterate: the Day of Atonement. According to the ancient rabbis, it is not the observance of the Day of Atonement, but the Day itself, the “essence of the Day,” which, with man’s repentance, atones for the sins of man.

Jewish ritual may be characterized as the art of significant forms in time, as architecture of time. Most of its observances—the Sabbath, the New Moon, the festivals, the Sabbatical and the Jubilee year—depend on a certain hour of the day or season of the year. It is, for example, the evening, morning, or afternoon that brings with it the call to prayer. The main themes of faith lie in the realm of time. We remember the day of the exodus from Egypt, the day when Israel stood at Sinai; and our Messianic hope is the expectation of a day, of the end of days.

In a well-composed work of art an idea of outstanding importance is not introduced haphazardly, but, like a

king at an official ceremony, it is presented at a moment and in a way that will bring to light its authority and leadership. In the Bible, words are employed with exquisite care, particularly those which, like pillars of fire, lead the way in the far-flung system of the biblical world of meaning.

One of the most distinguished words in the Bible is the word *kadosh*, holy; a word which more than any other is representative of the mystery and majesty of the divine. Now what was the first holy object in the history of the world? Was it a mountain? Was it an altar?

It is, indeed, a unique occasion at which the distinguished word *kadosh* is used for the first time: in the Book of Genesis at the end of the story of creation. How extremely significant is the fact that it is applied to time: “And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy.” There is no reference in the record of creation to any object in space that would be endowed with the quality of holiness.

This is a radical departure from accustomed religious thinking. The mythical mind would expect that, after heaven and earth have been established, God would create a holy place—a holy mountain or a holy spring—whereupon a sanctuary is to be established. Yet it seems as if to the Bible it is holiness in time, the Sabbath, which comes first.

When history began, there was only one holiness in the world, holiness in time. When at Sinai the word of God was about to be voiced, a call for holiness in man was proclaimed: “Thou shalt be unto me a holy people.” It was only after the people had succumbed to the temptation of worshipping a thing, a golden calf, that the erection of a Tabernacle, of holiness in space, was commanded. The sanctity of time came first, the sanctity of man came second, and the sanctity of space last. Time was hallowed by God; space, the Tabernacle, was consecrated by Moses.

While the festivals celebrate events that happened in time, the date of the month assigned for each festival in the calendar is determined by the life in nature. Passover and the Feast of Booths [Sukkot], for example, coincide with the full moon, and the date of all festivals is a day in the month, and the month is a reflection of what goes on periodically in the realm of

Continue on page 3

Continued from page 2

nature, since the Jewish month begins with the new moon, with the reappearance of the lunar crescent in the evening sky. In contrast, the Sabbath is entirely independent of the month and unrelated to the moon. Its date is not determined by any event in nature, such as the new moon, but by the act of creation. Thus the essence of the Sabbath is completely detached from the world of space.

The meaning of the Sabbath is to celebrate time rather than space. Six days a week we live under the tyranny of things of space; on the Sabbath we try to become attuned to holiness in time. It is a day on which we are called upon to share in what is eternal in time, to turn from the results of creation to the mystery of creation, from the world of creation to the creation of the world.

Rabbi Moshe Saks

MEMBERSHIP: Betty Shaffer



Our Virtual Chanukah Party was a success in a large part to Rabbi Saks who led us in a Chanukah related Scavenger Hunt and a Trivia Game. He also led us in lighting the candles. Thank you, Rabbi Saks, for all your efforts to make this Virtual Chanukah Party a success. We are hoping that next year we will be able to celebrate together in person and share the fun and joy of the holiday including the latkes and jelly donuts.

Our first Shabbat Dinner was a success with more than 50 people in attendance. The food was delicious as always and there was plenty of room in the ballroom to be safely spaced out. Thank you to those who attended. Hopefully it will be the start of many dinners together.



As always, we are looking for new members and ask everyone to be an ambassador for ICCJ. If you know anyone, young or old, singles or families, who are interested in seeing what ICCJ has to offer, please pass along to the office their contact details.

RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS: Michelle Fouks

Shalom from Religious Affairs

Hope you had a wonderful Chanukah season together with family and enjoying all of the festivities provided by your ICCJ family. A splendid job was done by the many arms of the synagogue. Yasher Koach to all of you. If you enjoyed the festivities, be sure to thank those that worked on them and perhaps next year you may want to join in the planning. Hope also Chanukah was followed up by a wonderful New Year.

The weather is cold, and maybe snowy, if you can't get out be sure to join services during the week and Shabbat either by streaming or on Zoom (follow the eblasts). We have lovely Friday night services, warm melodious services on Shabbat (In-person & Livestreaming) and Havdalah Services to end the Shabbat. We invite everyone to join one, two or all three services provided by Rabbi Saks and Cantor Shiya Ribowsky. They are interactive, fun and spiritual. In addition, we have weekday evening services at 7:30 PM.

Looking forward we are working on a Tu B'Shvat Seder for Sunday, January 16, which is always a pleasant event, as well as Purim Services in March. Put on your thinking caps and send any ideas you might have to make Purim more festive.

Remember, if you have a yarhzeit coming up try to let the Rabbi know the month before so we can include the minyan on our monthly calendar.

Stay warm, safe and most of all healthy. Wishing you all a very Happy New Year.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in person.





Please join Rabbi Saks and the Religious Affairs Committee on

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2022

ט"ו בשבט

@ 7:00 PM

for a

Tu B'Shevat Seder

Zoom Link To Follow



The 15th of Shevat is the New Year for Trees, known as *Tu b'Shevat*.

According to Biblical law, there is a seven-year agricultural cycle, concluding with the Sabbatical year. When the Holy Temple stood in Jerusalem, on years one, two, four and five of this cycle, farmers were required to separate a tenth of their produce and eat in Jerusalem. This tithe is called *Maaser Sheni*, the Second Tithe, because it is in addition to the (two percent which must be given to the Kohen), and the ten percent which is given to the Levite. On the third and sixth years of the cycle, instead of the owners eating the Second Tithe in Jerusalem, they gave this second tithe to the poor, who were permitted to consume it wherever they wished.

It takes approximately four months for the rains of the new year to saturate the soil and trees and produce fruit. On the Sabbatical year, no tithes are separated. All produce which grows during this year is ownerless and free for anyone to take.

It was therefore of vital importance to ascertain when the new year started for produce. Our Rabbis established that a fruit which blossomed before the 15th of Shevat is produce of the previous year. If it blossomed afterwards, it is the produce of the "new year." (By comparison, grains, vegetables, and legumes have the same New Year as humans, the 1st of *Tishrei*.) Why is this so? In the Mediterranean region, the rainy season begins with the festival of Sukkot. It takes approximately four months (from *Sukkot*, the 15th of *Tishrei*, until the 15th of Shevat) for the rains of the new year to saturate the soil and trees, and produce fruit. All fruit which blossoms beforehand are a product of the rains of the previous year and are tithed together with the crops of the previous year.

Although this day is Rosh Hashanah for *trees*, we attach special significance to this holiday because "Man is [compared to] the tree of the field" (*Deuteronomy 20:19*). Through cultivating strong roots – faith and commitment to God – we produce many fruits—Torah and Mitzvot.

Observances and Customs

On this day it is customary to partake of the fruit with which the Holy Land is praised (*Deuteronomy 8:8*): olives, dates, grapes, figs and pomegranates. If tasting any of these fruit for the first time this season, remember to recite the *Shehecheyanu* blessing.



Presidents Joel Rothman & Sol Sturm

An old song by the Rolling Stones said "You can't always get what you want", and at Men's Club we are finding that to be true in a variety of ways. I contacted an organization, with the intention of having them provide a speaker for Veterans Shabbat, only to lose track of the contact person there, and I didn't receive either a proper response or a speaker. Fortunately, Rita Ash and a couple of us had readings to contribute to the morning's proceedings to help make it meaningful.

About 2 months ago, we started promoting an event for the evening of December 25, but as of December 1, we haven't received a single email from people wanting to participate in the event, so by the time you read this summary, it will not have taken place.



The next date for an event that typically involves Men's Club is the World Wide Wrap. On the first Sunday of every February, and specifically on February 6, 2022, in Conservative congregations all over the U.S. and Canada men and women from the age of Bar/Bat Mitzvah on up wrap their arms with tephillin, and participate in the morning service, Shacharit.

It would be especially meaningful this year because the Ohr Chadash school is being housed at ICCJ, if we had an especially large adult minyan, so that our members who know how to put on the tephillin can guide the 12, and 13 year-olds who may not have much experience with this ritual. For everyone's convenience, the minyan is being scheduled at 9:30 AM, on Sunday, February 6. PLEASE MAKE A SERIOUS EFFORT TO ATTEND THIS SERVICE to help perpetuate a centuries-old Jewish tradition. We also encourage those adult members who have not been donning tephillin to join us and be assisted by those of us who are experienced at performing this ritual. IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN, and have the satisfaction of taking part in a unique Jewish tradition.

Finally, as always, we welcome everyone's input of suggestions for programs that may be of interest to our members.

With best wishes for 2022.

SISTERHOOD NEWS: Presidents Hannah Feldman & Lisa Woliner

For Chanukah, Sisterhood presented Jewpardy....eat your heart out Mayim Bialik. Our hostesses for the evening, Judy Mermelstein and Shari Zuber, took over the reigns and worked like a well-oiled wheel.

Also, in December, Sisterhood along with the Education Committee, presented "Miss Kimberly Faye Greenberg" impersonating Fanny Brice. For everyone who is a Funny Girl fan, it was a wonderful morning of history and music.



January 9th at 7pm, Sisterhood presents "Off-Broadway" on Zoom. We know many of you haven't gotten to Broadway or Off-Broadway yet, because of the pandemic, so in

conjunction with the Performing Arts School in

Brooklyn, we proudly present "Eva: A Survivor's Tale". This will be a live performance on Zoom with the students in the College of Performing Arts. A brief synopsis: A young teenager, Eva, is dragged from her house by Nazi soldiers, sent to a number of concentration camps – there she engineers a daring escape.....The cost for the "Off-Broadway" show is your attendance and anyone you would like to invite. Look out for the flyer shortly.

Ending the year of 2021, we found ourselves trying to entertain and educate our congregation in the world of Zoom. We collaborated with Men's Club, Education Committee, Chaverim and other Sisterhoods in different states to bring you choices of programs to help you pass the time during these turbulent times.

Sisterhood is grateful for your participation and hope to see you all in 2022.

TORAH FUND

Each of us is one small nugget of gold, but together our small gifts reflect and refract the light inside us and help each other shine. (WL '21)

The Torah Fund Campaign supports our future rabbis, cantors, educators, social workers and innovative thinkers enrolled in our Conservative / Masorti seminaries.

Donations in any amount are welcome and appreciated! Here's how you may be part of ICCJ's Torah Fund Campaign.

Send greeting cards with a purpose. Use Torah Fund cards to acknowledge life cycle events. Buy one at a time or purchase several. They're \$5 each.

Fill a Torah Fund *tzedakah* box. Return it in May as the campaign year comes to a close.

Share that your fashion has a passion. Proudly wear the *B'Yachad* pin pictured above. Donate \$180 and receive this beautiful thank you gift from Torah Fund.

Please contact:

Cynthia Begel, cbegel@gmail.com, for Torah Fund cards; and

Anise Parnes, a.parnes8166@gmail.com, for Torah Fund pins, *tzedakah* boxes, and your Torah Fund questions.

B'yachad, together, let's invest in our Jewish future. Thank you for generously supporting our Torah Fund Campaign!

L'shalom, Anise



SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE: Philip Parnes



Many thanks to our shul members who contributed to our 2021 Food and Clothing drives which ended on December 6th! Both drives were *VERY* successful, enabling us to provide many in our community with nutritious food and warm clothing.

As has been said, "team work makes the dream work." Thank you to our ICCJ Social Action Committee members, Rita Ash, Adah Sylvan and Clarissa Weiss, who collaborated to make these drives a success, including giving up valuable personal time accepting members' donations at ICCJ. And, thank you to our

synagogue's staff, Willie Cooper, Mady O'Brien and Helena Shayer, for your assistance as we promoted these drives and gathered donations. We could not have done it without you!

The Social Action Committee is developing new projects that we hope will engage the whole congregational community. We'll be sharing details in upcoming eblasts.

Stay tuned for more information

Again, thank you for supporting our efforts.



EDUCATION: Hannah Feldman, Nina Greebler, & Adam Greebler



On November 21, we were honored with the Great Yiddish American Songbook, from 2nd Avenue to Broadway, hosted by Will Friedwald, one of the nation's most prolific music writers. Mr. Friedwald spoke about Yiddish music while showing clips featuring the mainstream musical sensations The

Andrew Sisters. One of this group's # 1 hits was the English version of the song Bei Mir Bistu Shein. This song was very familiar to us as many of us grew up hearing it in our homes. Other clips included Zero Mostel singing, "If I Were A Rich Man", along with performances by Molly Picon and Ziggy Elman. We learned so much while traveling down this musical memory lane.

On December 12, the Education Committee and Sisterhood held the musical stylings of Kimberly Faye Greenberg singing the songs from Funny Girl. Ms. Greenberg, who played Fanny Brice off Broadway, shared the story of the iconic entertainer's life and loves.

Stay safe and well.

Please wear your masks and social distance.

YOUNG FAMILIES: Emilee Wyner



What's more fun than celebrating Chanukah with edible menorahs and dreidels?

ICCJ Young Families spent Saturday night, December 4th, celebrating Chanukah together! Rabbi Saks started the evening's festivities by leading us in Havdalah and Chanukah candle lighting. This was followed by some latkes and apple sauce. We then made edible menorahs and dreidels using marshmallows, pretzel sticks, frosting, Hershey's kisses and more. We all went home with sufganiyot too!

By the time the night ended, we definitely ate way too much and left on a sugar high. These children really know how to have a good time! As one of the girls said, "I love junk food!"



Look for information on our January program in the upcoming eblasts.

Join us for...

TOT SHABBAT

IN-PERSON @
ICCJ

EVERY 2ND &
4TH SATURDAY
OF EACH MONTH
@ 10:30 AM

RSVP TO:
hannahbrenman@gmail.com
BY 12 NOON ON FRIDAY

JOIN HANNAH
BRENMAN & FRIENDS
FOR SONGS,
PRAYERS, STORIES
AND GAMES

ISRAEL CENTER OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM
ICCJ

Israel Center of Conservative Judaism (ICCJ)
167-11 73rd Ave, Flushing NY 11366

Library news



Hanukkah has come and gone and winter is encroaching upon us each day! What a great time to find some good books and movies! In the last Tikvatenu, I listed a number of books that we have acquired and I hope you will look into them...literally.

On November 7, we had a wonderful Sisterhood/Library program with guest author, Gwen Strauss, all the way from France. She spoke eloquently about her book, ***The Nine: The True Story of a Band of Women***

Who Survived the Worst of Nazi Germany. The book was based on the story of her great Aunt Helene.

On December 19, the ICCJ Book Café returned with a discussion of Dara Horn's new book, ***People Love Dead Jews: Reports from a Haunted Present.*** Ms. Horn has written many essays over the years and when she reflected on them during this time of increased anti-Semitic attacks, she came to realize that a central theme was dead Jews. Horn's essays reflect on subjects as far-flung as the international veneration of Anne Frank, the mythology that Jewish family names were changed at Ellis Island, the blockbuster traveling exhibition *Auschwitz*, the marketing of the Jewish history of Harbin, China, and the little-known life of the "righteous Gentile" Varian Fry. Throughout, she challenges us to confront the reasons why there might be so much fascination with Jewish deaths, and so little respect for Jewish lives unfolding in the present.

H2I YOUTH GROUP: Youth Director Jennifer Gold

A Joint Venture of HJC, HHBIC & ICCJ



Dear Congregants,

We are excited to enter 2022 with a whole new programming calendar. Stay tuned! Calendar will be out soon!

Also, we are still looking to expand our youth group. We encourage children grades 5th-8th to join our Kadima

program and children in grades 9th-12th to join our USY program. Our Kadima program runs every Sunday from 6:15-7:30pm and our USY program runs from 7:30pm-9:00pm every Sunday. Both programs take place at Etz Hayim at Hollis Hills Bayside.

As a reminder, you can reach out to Jen, H2I Youth Director at any time at h2iyouthgroup18@gmail.com.

COMMUNICATIONS: Nina Greebler & Linda Korobelnik



The Communication Committee is thrilled to let everyone know that pictures for many of our synagogue events are appearing in the photo gallery as individual pages on the website. You might be surprised to see yourself in one of the photographs. Anyone who has additional pictures to share, please send them to ngreebler@gmail.com.

JTS Streiker Scholarstream class listings are updated as well. You will find these listings under Educational Opportunities. Please use the code provided when

registering. For a description of the upcoming series, turn to page 14.

All flyers for upcoming programs are attached on the Home Page. Please click on the appropriate flyer to get the information for all the events.

Watch for a new Mission Statement and new page under Social Action which is coming soon.

During the year, the printer for our bulletin may be unable to meet our first of the month deadline due to high volume. We suggest you visit the Publications link on iccj2004.org to view the latest issue of Tikvatenu.

We hope you had a wonderful Chanukah with your families. Wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

OHR Chadash: School Administrator Shari Zuber



OUR BRIGHTEST CHANUKAH

Although the ongoing global pandemic has been putting a damper on and dimming many a holiday celebration for the past two years, the Ohr Chadash student body and teaching staff could not have had a brighter and more joyous Chanukah program.

Almost like eight years ago, but not quite, we just missed having a Thanksgiving celebration this year by only a few days. Since Ohr Chadash was on a Turkey-weekend break the Sunday which was the first light of Chag HaUrim, our children dedicated the entire seventh day of the holiday to projects and events acknowledging the festival.

Following the Opening Assembly, Ohr Chadash was transformed into a culinary and artistic institute.



The students in our youngest class, Kochavim, became chocolatiers, creating mini Chanukah menorahs, dreidels, and Magen Davids in all the colors of the rainbow. As

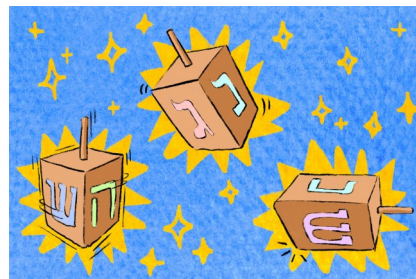
these children were hard at work, the other classes were channeling their artistic muses. Each student in Chalutzim, Giborim and Gesher were decorating special Chanukah tote bags which could be used for many years to come.

For the next period, Chalutzim prepared mouth watering lollipops for the entire school. At this time our artistes of Kochavim were creating their own jigsaw puzzles, which they were able to put to practical use once they went home.

The last food preparations for the day were created by the Giborim and Gesher classes, latkes. With four griddle stations, supervised by our teachers, our eldest pupils became experts in the art of potato pancake flipping.

Morah Marina led the ceremony for the lighting of the Chanukiyah as the children, in unison, chanted the brachot. Morah Judy next led the classes in our holiday songfest. The lilting voices of the students and the morot were in perfect harmony as the strains of tunes such as "I Have a Little Dreidel" and "Light One Candle" wafted through CEHHHB's Menchel Hall.

The assemblage was next treated to a video montage of several Jewish a capella groups singing comedic parodies of *Star Wars* and *West Side Story* melodies substituting the original lyrics with the words from Chanukah songs. Finally, the gastronomic delights of the morning were ready and the students and teachers happily partook of the school-made latkes, accompanied by individualized apple sauce containers and juice boxes.



Before the conclusion of the day's festivities, the children competed in a dreidel spinning contest. The winners of each grade's competition had a spin-off to decide the Ohr Chadash Grand Champion S'vivon Twirler. After the dust had settled and the last dreidel had dropped, Ethan Sirota was crowned the champion. The prize he went home with was an edible hand-painted chocolate menorah.

As each student left for the day, they went home with a bagful of holiday goodies, compliments of the Ohr Chadash Parents' Association, and hand-held toys, which were donated by our host synagogue, Congregation Etz Hayim of Hollis Hills Bayside.

As of this writing, the Giborim and Gesher classes are preparing for their second courtroom drama, the Trial of Joseph's Brothers. Being charged with attempted murder and human trafficking (attempting to sell their brother Joseph into slavery), we will watch as the prosecution and defense go head-to-head and the Chalutzim class, serving as the jury, is faced with the difficult task of deciding the merits of the case.

When next we meet in print, Ohr Chadash will be ensconced at Israel Center of Conservative Judaism for the remainder of the school year. As we previously expressed our appreciation to CEHHHB for their hospitality this Fall/Winter term, we look forward to our Winter/Spring tenure at ICCJ, beginning on January 9, 2022.

Wishing a happy, healthy, and safe secular New Year to all our families and staff. *Morah Shari*

SPORTS CLINIC: Paul Gorel



The Sports Clinic couldn't stay away!!

You wanted swim, both learn and play

So here we are and hopefully won't go away!!

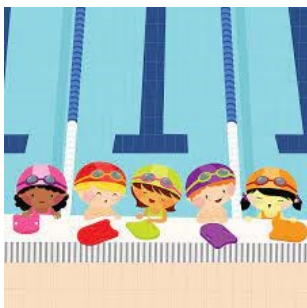
I am so excited to have this program up and running while adjusting and adhering to Covid-19 protocol!! I love seeing all the smiling faces from both old and new students and their parents.

There are so many people to thank for helping to make our re-opening a reality and believing in both myself and the program. Just to name a few is the entire Executive Board, the entire Board of Trustees, the House Committee, the Ladies in the Office, Willie, Steve, Mel (you are dearly missed), My Staff, the Students and finally, my family (who was with me every moment of this ride, even when they heard enough. I Love You).



I am proud to announce that we now have 155 swim spots occupied with only a couple of spots available on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday with Wednesday filled.

Hey Sports Clinic Members, guess what, if you join Israel Center of Conservative Judaism, then you get to attend congregation swim (only open to our members) for FREE!! That's right, you heard correctly, in



addition to all the wonderful offerings our synagogue has – you get to have family swim time and practice those wonderful strokes you just learned. So the next time you come in for your lesson, ask about the Temple with the Heart and all its programs it has to offer!!



EXTRA, EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT!

ICJ HAS CONGREGATION SWIM

AND THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!!

Come on down during the following times, say hello and enjoy a dip in the pool that's heated!! Don't forget to bring along one of your congregant friends and make it a party!! Just let me know you're attending at 347-502-3612 and we'll see you on:

Sunday 7:50am – 8:50am and

4:45pm – 6:00pm

Monday 8:15pm – 9:15pm

Tuesday 7:15pm – 8:15pm

Thursday 7:30pm – 8:15pm

And our extra special congregation swim featuring Water Aerobics: Wednesday 8:00pm – 8:45pm



I hope everyone had a very Happy, Healthy and Safe Holiday and that 2022 is a great one for all!!



Scholarstream's series on **The Other Within - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in a Pluralistic Movement** will begin on Wednesday, January 19. Please **register by 5:00 PM ET on Monday, January 17 via iccj2004.org under Educational Opportunities** to make sure you receive the Zoom link for Session 1. The moderator for these sessions will be Alex Friedman from JTS.

Removing the Stumbling Block: From Theory to Practice

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 8:00 PM ET/5:00 PM PT Teachers: Daniel S. Nevins & Lauren Tuchman

Description: Many of the most important Jewish leaders have been blind, and the Torah commands Israel not to place stumbling blocks to impede their progress. Yet Jews who are blind have often been excluded from full participation in Jewish ritual or been denied access to the riches of Torah available only in print. What pathways to Jewish leadership do halakhic sources offer to Jews who are blind? What paths remain blocked? Rabbi Lauren Tuchman, the first blind woman to be ordained as a rabbi, and Rabbi Daniel Nevins, who wrote a responsum on this

Status of the Heresh and of Sign Language

Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 8:00 PM ET/5:00 PM PT Teachers: Pamela Barmash, Naomi Brunlehrmann & Susan Cohen

Description: What is it like for a Deaf and Hard of Hearing member of a Conservative/Masorti synagogue to come on Shabbat or for a family simhah and not be able to avail themselves of a sign language interpreter, captioning service, or assistive listening devices? What is it like for a Deaf Jew to read in rabbinic literature that the deaf are placed in the same category as minors and the psychologically deranged, yet read in the Torah, "you shall not insult the deaf"? In 2011, the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards (CJLS) of the Rabbinical Assembly approved two teshuvot on the deaf who use sign language that were hailed as landmarks in the Deaf Jewish community. Susan Cohen, president of the Jewish Deaf Resource Center, Naomi Brunnlehrman, hazzan of the Deaf and executive director of the Jewish Deaf Resource Center, join with Rabbi Pamela Barmash, author of those teshuvot and co-chair of the CJLS, for a discussion of the teshuvot and how you can make your home community more accessible to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community.

When Jews Made Fellow Jews "Other": Hasidism and Its Opponents

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 8:00 PM ET/5:00 PM PT Teacher: David Fishman

Description: The Hasidim, followers of the Ba'al Shem Tov and his spiritual heirs, emerged in the 18th century with controversial ideas related to Jewish practice and belief. While Hasidim coexisted peacefully with non-Hasidim in many communities, the Mitnagdim ("opponents") in many larger Jewish centers in Eastern Europe reacted to the Hasidim not only with condemnation, but with writs of excommunication and measures to persecute the members of the new movement. This internal Jewish religious strife led to the division of the community into rival "denominations" for the first time in nearly a thousand years. We will study the conflict between the Hasidim and Mitnagdim and reflect on how the core principles of the dispute continue to shape our Jewish lives and guide our homes and institutions.

From Kinyan to Brit: Options for Egalitarian Partnerships in Conservative Halakhah

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 8:00 PM ET/5:00 PM PT Teacher: Gail Labovitz

Description: In classical Jewish law, marriage and divorce are unilateral acts in which a man "sets aside" a woman as his wife at the wedding, and releases her in divorce; concomitantly, the ceremony presumes a heterosexual couple. Could it be possible to have a Jewish marriage in which each partner, of whatever gender, is equally responsible for initiating the binding relationship, and has equal rights to seek its end when necessary? Rabbi Labovitz will discuss her recent responsum for the CJLS, adopted in April of 2020, to validate new, egalitarian options for Jewish marriages.

CATASTROPHIC REACTIONS & AGING: Sheldon Ornstein Ed.D, RN,



The researcher Goldstein, coined the term “catastrophic reaction” to describe the overreaction to minor stresses which occur in patients with advanced dementia. It is precipitated by fatigue, overstimulation, an inability to meet expectations, and persistent misinterpretations. According to Goldstein, “When the environment is misperceived and one feels threatened, the following signs are noted:

- threatening gestures
- striking out
- increased voice volume
- agitation
- increased restlessness
- hostility

According to the researcher Mace, “Intervention becomes necessary to avert or minimize these reactions.” Any sudden deterioration in cognitive function with worsened behavior should be considered as a warning that the patient may be physically ill and will act out.

Action to be taken – Maximize the individual’s medical status with an appropriate physical evaluation and if necessary, medication for severe behavioral issues. Also recognize that these behavioral symptoms are not to be viewed as willful. Further, recognize the person with dementia who may not be able to control their behavior and will require staff intervention.

Action to be taken – Simplify tasks, requests, or the environment so that the confusion does not become overwhelming for the patient with dementia.

Action to be taken – Recognize the impending signs of a catastrophic reaction by close observation of

outbursts that are often preceded by restlessness.

Action to be taken – Remove the individual, when warranted, from an unwanted stimulus by withdrawing the individual to a quiet room or space. Suggest going for a walk, which may allow time to calm down or even a chance to distract and or forget what may have caused the patient to act out.

Action to be taken – Plan a consistent daily schedule of several uncomplicated routines that may include increasingly difficult tasks for when he or she feels best and can willingly comply with a request.

Action to be taken – Grossly disoriented persons often may appear helpless and hopeless but may briefly respond with warmth and pleasure when stimulated. For them, the goal is not just orientation but rather human contact. Care should be directed toward fostering good general health, improved motor skills function in all areas of behavior.

Action to be taken – Listening with respectful attention for any opportunity to create dialogue. Communication is an essential component of care. This can include the technique of reminiscence, even though one may not fully remember the names of their spouse or children.

According to the researcher Hellebrant, “Care that is based on the premise of what is left is uniquely human and should be protected and preserved as long as possible.”

The researchers Katz and McArdle summed it up this way, “Must we be held hostage by this dread threat of old age? Can we remember that life is more than momentary cerebral synapses. It is the total piece that has been woven and if at the end there are rugged edges, are they fault or fringe?”

We know full well the strain that loved ones endure when their beloved is out of touch with reality and incapable of behaving in socially acceptable ways. Yet, when in the depth of despair, we can be reminded of the better times and celebrate them for the joy they brought and the memories that remain.

**Not
feeling
well
today..**

**The Chesed Committee,
headed by Sol Sturm, is here for you
Contact Sol at: storm454@rcn.com
or call 718-591-5353**

Israel Center of Conservative Judaism
167-11 73rd. Avenue, Flushing, NY 11366

Rabbi
Rabbi Moshe Saks
718-591-5610
rabbims@iccj2004.org
rabsaks@gmail.com

Cantor
Shiya Ribowsky
Synagogue Office
Office Manager
Helena Shayer
718-591-5353 x 2
helena@iccj2004.org

Bookkeeper
Mady O'Brien
718-591-5353 x 3
madyo@iccj2004.org

Webmaster
Adam Lepp
website: iccj2004.org

Custodian
Willie Cooper

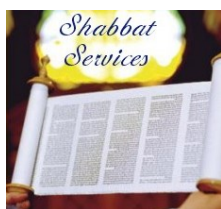
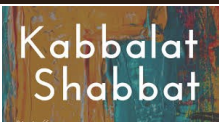
Ohr Chadash Religious School
Shari Zuber
stuymom@nyc.rr.com

H2I Youth Leader
Jennifer Gold h2iyouthgroup18@gmail.com

Tot Shabbat Leader
Hannah Brenman hannahbrenman@gmail.com

Librarian
Arlene Ratzabi aratzabi@gmail.com

Please join Rabbi Saks
for



CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES JANUARY, 2022

1/7 - 4:26 PM - *Bo*
1/14 - 4:33 PM - *Beshalach*
1/21 - 4:41 PM - *Yitro*
1/28 - 4:49 PM - *Mishpatim*



Israel Center of Conservative Judaism
and
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