

CONGREGATION B'NAI YISRAEL is the Jewish home we share. We are a community creating positive experiences with individuals of every age. CONGREGATION B'NAI YISRAEL is our spiritual center, where together, our family of families celebrates, commemorates, worships, learns, nurtures, gives, and grows. We constantly strive to achieve the beauty that comes from experiencing the world through Jewish eyes.



CONGREGATION B'NAI YISRAEL

2 Banksville Road • Box 7 • Armonk, NY 10504 • www.cbyarmonk.org

The Bulletin

December 2011/January 2012

Kislev/Tevet/Shevat 5772

NURTURING OUR JEWISH IDENTITY

Text in the City

Wednesday, December 7, 12:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 11, 12:00 p.m.

Rosh Chodesh Luncheon and Study Group

Friday, December 9, 12:00 p.m.
Friday, January 6, 12:00 p.m.
Friday, January 27, 12:00 p.m.

Gift Giving Party

Sunday, December 11, 11:00 a.m.

Early Service

Friday, December 16, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, January 20, 6:30 p.m.

Study in the Suburbs

Wednesday, December 21, 12:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 18, 12:00 p.m.

Family Chanukah Celebration and Dinner

Friday, December 22, 5:30 p.m.

Special Presentation on Jewish Camping at Eisner/Crane Lake

Sunday, January 8, 9:30 a.m.

NURTURING OUR JEWISH IDENTITY

Cantor's Concert

Sunday, January 22, 4:00 p.m.

Midnight Run

Saturday, January 28

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GUARDING THE GARDEN

Adam was placed in the Garden of Eden to till it and to tend it. —Genesis 2:15

The land is Mine. —Leviticus 25:23

A Halloween snowstorm: twelve inches of powder fell on our corner of Northern Westchester before the months of October had come to a close; this was far more trick than treat. Trees and power lines were downed throughout our county, across Connecticut. Schools took early snow days as facilities remained off the power grid and roads proved too difficult to traverse. Of those who lost power, the lucky ones snapped up the few available hotel rooms. The others slept with pets around whatever kind of roaring fire they could keep burning in their fireplace. And, even if you were one of the lucky ones who never lost power, that massive and unpredictable snowstorm was a cold and bitter omen of the days that lie ahead.

Continues on page 2

GUARDING THE GARDEN

Our Halloween weather event also reminded us of Hurricane Irene which was fortunately fading into our memories. Only two months ago—with rain instead of snow—we seemed to experience the same phenomenon: completely unpredictable weather that either trapped us in, removed us from or physically damaged our homes. Some of us who thought we learned the lessons of Irene installed generators just before the October snow. But I would argue that those whose new generators kept them warm on All Hallow's Eve did not really learn the full lesson of Hurricane Irene. I think that what we must understand from these immense changes in our weather transcends merely how we equip our homes.

On the Shabbat of the snowstorm, Jews around the world gathered in sanctuaries to read the Biblical tale of Noah and the Ark. This legend of old teaches us that when we human beings are reckless here on Earth, great destruction comes in its wake. Noah was but ten generations removed from Adam and Eve, the original human beings placed in the Garden of Eden with one charge: to take care of the earth and its creatures. A mere ten generations later, a self-centered society became overtly violent in seeking its own satisfaction. Therefore, our legend goes, were the great upheavals of the flood unleashed upon the land.

I do not read our ancient story of Noah as telling us today that God punished us with a snowstorm and a hurricane because of our actions. That is a theology to which I cannot ascribe. However, the wisdom of our Jewish tradition in this tale makes two clear morals about our environment. First, that human beings are the ones responsible for taking care of the precious gifts of Creation, our planet, Earth. The second lesson we learn from this legend of old is one we could have figured out without the story: that human behavior carries with it serious and real consequences.

There is no doubt in my mind that human consumption of fossil fuels has carried with it the consequences of massive climate change. And while Hurricane Irene might have been an unfortunate part of the natural order of our world, I cannot help but think that a massive snowstorm that precedes the month of November is part of a climate change equation. To me, the lessons we must learn from the brutal weather we have seen this past year is not merely that it is our *familial* responsibility to run out and buy a generator for our homes. The lessons we need to learn from the massive weather upheavals of this past season are that we need to change the way we behave *each and every day* in order to protect this Earth, this Creation, for future generations.

There are myriad things each of us can do to change the way we relate to our environment. We can carry around water bottles and coffee mugs instead of constantly buying new plastic Poland Spring bottles or Styrofoam hot beverage containers. We cannot only buy new thermostats for our homes that help us regulate temperature by time and room occupancy, but we can also choose to make the temperature a few degrees higher in the summer, a few degrees lower in the winter. We can make a commitment to join a CSA and partake of locally-produced produce so that we do not support the agribusiness that trucks strawberries up from South America or flies grapes in from California. Even the biggest of our SUVs which we think we need for carpool are now available in hybrid models. There are no limits to the daily choices we can make that affect the health of our environment, the very nature of our world.

Our religious heritage reminds us that this planet is a gift that has been but lent to us. In Leviticus we are taught that our world belongs to God; the Creation is a divine possession. It is our responsibility to be stewards of this planet, of our climate. It is our job to ensure that our world will be healthy for ours and for future generations. This is the lesson Leviticus tries to teach us. These are the morals that stand behind our many legends of Genesis: caring for our environment is our Jewish obligation.

All of us need to be in better touch with this religious responsibility. Once every year on our sacred calendar there comes a special day to recall our connection to the earth. On the 15th day of the month of Shevat—which we call by its abbreviation *Tu B'Shevat*—Jews gather to have a special Seder meal to recall our connection to the Creation.

GUARDING THE GARDEN

This year at Congregation B'nai Yisrael, as in years past, we too will gather and sit around tables to discuss and to learn how we can be better stewards of God's creation. I invite you and your family to join us on Wednesday, February 8th at 6:00 p.m. for this wonderful evening. Certainly it will be a challenge and a reminder to us of how we can take more seriously our obligations to our earth. Even if you are unable to attend, I ask that you put a note in your calendar on this Jewish holy day: set aside time to think about the choices you want to make in this coming year to act more deeply on our obligation to our earth.

I hope we can all work together in doing a far better job of taking care of this wondrous gift of Creation.

B'shalom,



Rabbi Seth M. Limmer

OUR COMMUNITY WILL STUDY

December 2	Human Rights: Created in the Divine Image
December 9	What We Own Owns Us
December 16	Early Service at 6:30 p.m.
December 23	Militarism and Nuclear Arms
December 30	God's Justice
January 6	Generations and Change
January 13	The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
January 20	Early Service at 6:30 p.m.
January 27	What Is Going on in Israel

OUR CLERGY IN THE COMMUNITY

On Tuesday evening, November 22, all of our clergy participated in our annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. Our community was hosted this year by our friends at the Armonk United Methodist Church, where we were joined by members and clergy from St. Patrick's Church, St. Stephen's Church, and the Thornwood Mosque.

Rabbi Krantz participated in a regular meeting of the Ethics Committee of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Rabbi Krantz delivered a two hour lecture to Korean Ministers on the Calendar as Our Catechism in Judaism at the New York Theological Seminary.

Rabbi Krantz attended a J Street Leadership meeting in New York where the Speaker was General Israela Oron, the highest ranking woman in the Israeli Army.

On Tuesday, November 15, **Rabbi Limmer** chaired the Faculty Summit for Eisner and Crane Lake Camps. This session, which gathered over forty Rabbis, Cantors and Jewish Educators who serve our Reform Jewish Camps, was the first of two meetings to help prepare and strengthen the Jewish programming at both camps. Rabbi Limmer chaired because he serves as Dean of Faculty for Eisner and Crane Lake Camps.

On Wednesday, November 16, **Rabbi Limmer** and nine members of Congregation B'nai Yisrael attended the Founding Assembly of Westchester United, our new congregation-based community organization of which our synagogue is one of 18 founding sponsors. Rabbi Limmer co-chaired this meeting of congregational leaders from Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Community Centers along with Reverend Julius Walls of Greater Centennial Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon.

Rabbi Limmer participated in a conference call of the leadership of the Union for Reform Judaism's Commission on Social Action in order to work out the details and to ratify a funding grant for a college summer lobbying internship at our Religious Action Center in Washington, D.C. The grant that will support this program, Machon Kaplan, will allow 20 Reform Jewish college students every year to receive a full scholarship, including board, to learn how to advocate for issues close to the heart of the Jewish people in our American democracy.

Cantor Kobilinsky began teaching as an adjunct professor at the seminary of the Reform movement, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, this September. Her fall semester class, for cantorial students of the School of Sacred Music, is a workshop in the contemporary music for the Three Festivals (Sukkot, Pesach and Shavuot).

On September 6, **Cantor Kobilinsky** was given the honor of singing Hatikvah and The Star Spangled Banner at the Westchester County observance of Jewish History and Heritage Month, which was held at the County Board Legislative Chambers in White Plains.

HARK THE GOOGLE SEARCHES BRING...

In my search to discover something new to write about Chanukkah, since this column would be headed for the December edition, and I don't recycle my columns (only paper, plastic, metal and glass!), I "googled" "Chanukkah." Thanks to Google's sometimes annoying feature of popping up suggestions before one has even finished typing a single word, a list appeared of Chanukkah-related searches, which, I assume, are based on the frequency of clicked-links and popularity of certain search-phrases. I skimmed the list and initially thought it was useless to have even tried. Then I took a closer look:

1. hanukkah 2011
2. hanukkah
3. hanukkah song
4. hanukkah harry
5. hanukkah decorations
6. hanukkah traditions
7. hanukkah 2010
8. hanukkah gifts
9. hanukkah bush
10. hanukkah food

I was truly taken aback. First of all, I noted that Google had automatically replaced my "Ch" (the most common transliteration of that wonderful, phlegm-y, Jewish sound found in words like Chanukkah, L'chayim, and charoset) with an "h." However, the term "Chanukkah" means "dedication," or "inauguration." If it were spelled differently in Hebrew, to be pronounced "Hanukkah," it would have no meaning (yes, I confirmed this in a dictionary and a book of Hebrew word roots). Furthermore, if one visited Israel and asked an Israeli about "hah-nuh-kuh," as it is typically pronounced in America, one might get a surprised look, seeing as *that* word sounds an awful lot like the Hebrew word for breastfeeding. Before I go completely off the deep end of this tangent, let's get back to Google. My next observation was that "hanukkah" was written with a lower-case "h." This annoyed me, since Chanukkah is a proper noun, but at least Google is consistent: suggested term lists including "Christmas" and "Canada" were also lower-case. I did note with a smile that the third item down was music-related! Then my smile turned upside-down. So many of the other suggestions seemed so... assimilated. (Before you read on, please forgive the sarcasm, and keep reading to the end.) Hanukkah Harry, the Wanna-Be-Santa for American Jews just aching to have their own gift-slinging pot-bellied mystery man. Hanukkah gifts, because that's the big thing, and isn't this the season of consumerism? I mean, of giving? And finally, I just felt sad to see "hanukkah bush" on that list in the number nine slot. After all, a Christmas tree is a religious, not secular symbol. OK, OK, OK, everyone take a deep breath. I love this season as much as the next person. I truly enjoy listening to Christmas songs when I enter stores (though it would be nice to hear a couple of Chanukkah ones thrown in every now and again). I have spent plenty of hours of my lifetime driving past glowing neighborhoods to see the biggest, most spectacular displays. I join my best friend's family nearly every Christmas eve (for at least the past 15 years) and exchange gifts under their Christmas tree, which in high school I was *thrilled* to help decorate for the first time in my life. Each year I painstakingly search for and wrap gifts I hope they will like, and can't wait for the reveal following a festive meal including 7 different kinds of fish and seafood (since I don't eat either, I save room for the annual stuffed artichoke and Aunt Rose or Grandma Connie's eggplant parmigiana). Each year, they lovingly address the gifts for me as having come from Hanukkah Harry. Except for some years, when they just all come from Santa. I even sing along to the Christmas carols, just leaving out certain words to make them more universal, at least in my own mind.

I love the traditions of my neighbors, and I enjoy partaking in them while keeping the knowledge in my heart that my Judaism is alive and strong. While I don't think that there's anything wrong with this cross-cultural sharing, I also wish that the spirit of Chanukkah didn't have to be compared to other holidays. Chanukkah is a relatively minor holiday in Judaism, especially compared to Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Pesach and Shavuot. Incidentally, on Israel's Google, Chanukkah's top ten were all about dates, shows, maps, and for some reason, Chanukkah in the city of Eilat. There must be some big parties going on down in Eilat! I'll make a note of that for the next time I'm in Eilat during Chanukkah. Meanwhile, I've already begun looking for those aforementioned gifts, as I'm sure many of you have as well...and I've got a few Chanukkah gifts in the stockpile as well. I hope that this Chanukkah has, and I would ask for no more than: my immediate family, together, in our PJ's, lighting the menorah (chanukiah), maybe taking a picture of us behind it for posterity, and perhaps noshing on a latke or two. I wish you all a sweet, Happy Chanukkah, a merry holiday season no matter which holidays you celebrate, and for us all, a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Musically Yours,
Hayley

TOT SHABBAT

for Families with Children Ages 3-6

Fridays 5:30-6:15 p.m.

December 9, January 13, February 10, March 9, April 13, May 11

Tot Shabbat is a time for children and their parents to experience Shabbat through storytelling and music. Our program is led by our clergy and features the music, fun and excitement of Kenny Green.

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KINDERGARTEN

Sundays 9:30-10:15 a.m.

December 4, January 8, February 5, March 4, April 1, May 6

*The whole family is invited to our delicious **pancake breakfast** served at 9:00 a.m.
Our Kindergarten program follows immediately afterward.*

Our program for Kindergarteners and their parents is an opportunity for all to learn about the upcoming Jewish holidays, Jewish food, and Jewish living.

To **sign up** for our TOT Shabbat or Kindergarten program, please fill out the form below and return it to:
Congregation B'nai Yisrael, 2 Banksville Road, Box 7, Armonk, NY 10504

Questions? Contact Rabbi Limmer at (914) 273-2220 or rabbilimmer@cbyarmonk.org.

CBY TOT Shabbat and Kindergarten Sign Up

TOT Shabbat Kindergarten

Child's Name _____ Age _____

Parents' Names _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

GIFT GIVING PARTY

Donations accepted Monday, November 28 - Friday, December 9

Your family can help with our Gift Giving Party by

beginning Monday, November 28

- ◆ Shopping for gifts and sending them with your children to Hebrew School or bringing them to the temple office

on Sunday, December 11

- ◆ Coming early with your children, ages 10 and up, to help sort gifts
- ◆ **Coming with your children, all ages, to help them shop and wrap gifts to give to children in need from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

SUGGESTED GIFTS

Board games: Monopoly, Battleship, Connect 4, Checkers, Scattergories, Uno, Pictionary, Candyland, etc.

Art supplies: colored pencils, pads, pastels, erasable markers, etc.

Gift cards to Target, Barnes and Noble, Movie Theater, CVS

Warm fuzzy slippers for teenage boys and girls (medium and large)

Warm hats, gloves, scarves for teenage boys and girls

Warm robes (medium, large and XL)

Cozy blankets or throws

Fun socks

Color or paint by number

Puzzles of 100 to 500 pieces

Stuffed animals

Basketballs or footballs

Diaries

MP3 players



**** Rolls of Wrapping Paper for our Gift Wrapping Event!

Questions? Contact Liz Zimmerman (liz10506@gmail.com) about appropriate presents, Samantha Schwam (Samantha.Schwam@atlanticrecords.com) to volunteer with sorting presents, or Courtney Gordon (COURTCG1@aol.com) about the overall event.

Gifts will be donated to the Jewish Child Care Association: Pleasantville Cottage School.

Celebrate Chanukah with our family at Congregation B'nai Yisrael at our

FAMILY CHANUKAH CELEBRATION AND DINNER

Bring your whole family and enjoy delicious food, good music, and fun activities, including **decorating Chanukah cookies and cake pops, the dreidel game, and making your own candy dreidel.**

**Thursday, December 22
5:30 p.m.**



RSVP to Joanna at joanna@cbyarmonk.org or 273-2220

\$36 per family

**Join Rabbi Limmer and
James Gelsey, Assistant Director of Eisner Camps
to explore meaningful and fun summer
opportunities for your children**

Sunday, January 8 • 9:30 a.m.

Bring your entire family to learn more about the importance of Jewish camping for our children and how our congregation can take advantage of the campership incentive grants from UJA

\$1000 incentive for First Time Campers

Questions? Contact Rabbi Limmer at rabbilimmer@cbyarmonk.org or (914) 273-2220.

We look forward to you joining us for our annual

Cantor's Concert

Cantor Hayley Kobilinsky, Soprano

Joseph Rutkowski, Clarinet

Ron Drotos, Piano

An afternoon of musical enjoyment for the whole family...
and bring your friends!

Sunday, January 22 at 4:00 p.m.

Congregation B'nai Yisrael Sanctuary
Dessert Reception to Follow



ANNUAL COAT DRIVE

Winter is Fast Approaching

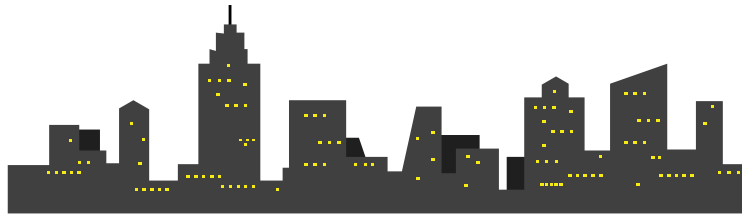
Help our Neighbors Stay Warm this Winter

Please bring your gently used, clean coats,
mittens, sweaters, scarves, etc to our temple

Donated items will be distributed during Midnight Run in January.
The remaining donations will go to the Community Center of Northern Westchester.



For more information, please contact
Felicia Buebel at fpbuebel@aol.com or
Lisa Mazure at lcm6333@aol.com.



MIDNIGHT RUN!

Saturday, January 28

WHAT IS THE MIDNIGHT RUN?

Every year CBY and its Caring and Social Action Committee participate in the Midnight Run, providing a meal, clothing and toiletries for New York City's homeless. Midnight Run is a consortium of over one hundred churches, synagogues and schools in the New York metropolitan area. Three or four times a week, scheduled volunteers travel into Manhattan on specific routes where they seek out the homeless poor. These volunteers deliver clothing, food, blankets and personal care items. In the process, they also try to break through the barriers of prejudice and fear that separate us from "the homeless." This is a perfect opportunity for families to help other people in a very meaningful, direct way. Further information is available at the organization's website: www.midnightrun.org.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

There are many ways for CBY members and families to participate. Remember that the population we serve are adults: mostly men, but some women as well. (Men outnumber women 10:1)

DONATE: We are asking the entire congregation to donate clean, gently used coats, durable pants size 32-40 (jeans preferred over khakis), hats, gloves and sneakers. Additionally, we need small toiletries such as shampoo, shaving cream, disposable razors, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

PREPARE: Come to the temple on January 28 from 12:00-2:00 p.m. to help prepare the food and load the cars driving into the city that evening.

TRANSPORT: Drive the food, clothing, and volunteers into the city on January 28. We will leave at approximately 9:00 p.m. and, upon arrival, will serve food and distribute clothing to the homeless. Our multiple destinations are specified by the Midnight Run organization.

To volunteer, please contact Lisa Mazure at LCM6333@aol.com. • Sponsored by the Caring and Social Action Committee

Join us in *Going Green*
Come celebrate with our CBY family the New Year of the Trees at our

TU B'SHEVAT FAMILY SEDER

Wednesday, February 8 • 6:00 p.m.

Led by our clergy together with our 7th graders



- Come sample different fruits of the land of Israel;
- Share four cups of grape juice to be in touch with the seasons; and,
- Learn from our 7th graders how we can better fulfill our Jewish obligations to the environment.

RSVP to Joanna Nevins at joanna@cbyarmonk.org or (914) 273-2220

SHABBAT SERVICE TIME CHANGE

We are beginning to move our Friday night Family Shabbat Services to 6:30 p.m. in order to adjust our service atmosphere and to afford us new opportunities after our services conclude.

Beginning in October, once every month, our principal Shabbat Service will be at 6:30 p.m.
Our 6:30 p.m. Services will be on *December 16, January 20, February 17, March 16, April 20, May 18, and June 15*

For those who are unable to attend the service,
there will be a brief worship opportunity at 8:00 p.m.



WORK IN NYC? EAT LUNCH ON WEDNESDAYS?

Join our clergy for **TEXT IN THE CITY**

A **monthly opportunity in midtown** to connect with Congregation B'nai Yisrael, our Jewish tradition, and the side of your brain not occupied with your mobile device. This year we will be exploring *Midrash: Understanding our Rabbi's Interpretations and Imaginations of the weekly Torah Portion*

Wednesdays at noon

December 7, January 11, February 8, March 14, April 18, & May 9

Thank you to our hosts, Pryor Cashman LLP located at 7 Times Square, NYC

Lunch will be served, maximum 20 people. You **MUST RSVP** to Alicia in the temple office at alicia@cbyarmonk.org no later than the Tuesday prior. Security precautions require that you show photo ID to be admitted to the building.

Adult Education

STUDY in the Suburbs



Join Rabbi Limmer for a **monthly lunchtime** opportunity for those near Armonk to come together and explore how key values of our Jewish tradition can enrich our lives and the lives of our families. Bring your **lunch** and an **appetite for conversation**.

Our focus this year will be: *Holy, Holy, Holy: Building Lives of Meaning out of the teachings of our Jewish tradition*

So please join us **Wednesdays at noon**

December 21, January 18, February 15, March 28, April 25, & May 16

For questions or to sign up, contact Rabbi Limmer at (914) 273-2220 or rabbilimmer@cbyarmonk.org.

Rosh Chodesh Celebrations

Food to Eat and Food for Thought



We are a grassroots gathering of women who meet each Hebrew month to celebrate the new moon. We serve lunch, get to know each other, and share in informal programs focusing on Jewish and/or women's issues.

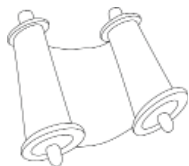
Rosh Chodesh is a special holiday where we find peace, enrichment, and sisterhood.

Fridays at noon, once a month

Kislev – December 9 • *Tevet* – January 6 • *Shevat* – January 27

Adar – February 24 • *Nisan* – March 23 • *Iyar* – April 20 • *Sivan* – May 25

Please RSVP if you plan to attend, so we can plan for lunch—or call with any questions. Carolyn Salon 273-8281 or Pearl Vogel 769-7170



Saturday Morning

TORAH STUDY

9:00-9:45 a.m.

Every non-holiday Shabbat morning from October until June, our clergy lead an informal, participatory discussion of the week's Torah portion.

Come every week, or just once in a while; bring your breakfast and an open mind.

Enrich your family's Jewish Journey with FREE CHILDREN'S BOOKS from The PJ Library®



The PJ Library mails free, high-quality Jewish children's books and music to families with children 8 years old and younger on a monthly basis.

Today, more than 70,000 families in more than 135 communities in the United States and Canada are able to explore the timeless core values of Judaism through the art and literature of these free children's books.

This gift of stories and song is sponsored by Congregation B'nai Yisrael. Families with children up to the age of 8 are invited to enroll.

Sign up online at www.pjlibrary.org.

Questions? Contact Rabbi Limmer at PJLibrary@cbyarmonk.org or (914) 273-2220.

The PJ Library: Building a stronger Jewish people, one book at a time.

PJ Library is available to members of Congregation B'nai Yisrael and families unaffiliated with another synagogue who live in Armonk, Bedford, Pleasantville, Chappaqua, Mount Kisco, and Greenwich.

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TOUR INCLUDES

- 3 nights at the Kings Court Hotel in Prague
 - 3 nights at the Intercontinental Hotel in Budapest
- 2 nights at the Holiday Inn in Krakow
 - 2 nights at the Polonia Palace Hotel in Warsaw
- All touring and sightseeing in a deluxe motor coach
 - Breakfast daily
 - Welcome dinner in Prague
 - Shabbat dinner in Budapest
 - Dinner at Beit Warshawa in Warsaw
 - Farewell dinner
- Group transfers and airport assistance upon arrival and departure
 - Entrance fees
 - Portage

OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO KIEV, KIROVOGRAD AND ODESSA

\$1,487.00, land only based on double occupancy

- 2 nights at the Radisson Blue Hotel in Kiev
 - 3 nights at the Bristol Hotel in Odessa
 - Shabbat dinner in Kiev
 - Lunch in Kirovograd
 - Lunch in Odessa
 - Farewell dinner in Odessa
- All touring and sightseeing per an agreed upon itinerary in a deluxe motor coach with an English speaking guide
- All transfers with group
 - Entrance fees as per itinerary

Join Rabbi Douglas Krantz & Congregation B'nai Yisrael on a memorable tour to **Eastern Europe**

October 14 - 25, 2012

\$2,899.00

Land only, based on double occupancy

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the world's largest castle
- Marvel at the world's only remaining astronomical clock
- Learn about the rich Jewish history of Prague
 - See the hidden synagogue at Terezin
- Shabbat services at the Hero's Synagogue in Budapest
 - Visit the magnificent Dohany Street Synagogue
 - See the revival of Polish Jewry at Beit Warshawa
- Visit Schindler's factory, as featured in the Oscar-winning film
 - Make moving visits to Plashow and Auschwitz-Birkenau
- Drive through the Solvastian countryside
- Go back in time as you tour the medieval streets of Krakow
- Walk the streets of the Warsaw Ghetto

...AND SO MUCH MORE!

Ayelet Tours, Ltd.

19 Aviation Rd. * Albany, NY 12205 * www.ayelet.com
(800) 237-1517 * (518) 783-6001 * FAX (518) 783-6003



DAY 1, Sunday, October 14, 2012: We depart on our overnight flight to Prague.

DAY 2, Monday, October 15, 2012: Arrival in Prague. Check into hotel. Afternoon tour of Golden Prague, including the 1,000-year-old Hradcany Castle, the Charles Bridge, the Astronomical Clock and St. Vitus's Cathedral. Welcome dinner. Overnight in Prague.

DAY 3, Tuesday, October 16, 2012: Breakfast. Sightseeing tour of Jewish interest sites, with a visit to the Old City to view the Josefov, Prague's Jewish Town with its Old Town Hall, the Alt-Neu Synagogue, the Pinkas Synagogue, the Maisel Synagogue, the Jewish Cemetery, and the State Jewish Museum. Overnight in Prague.

DAY 4, Wednesday, October 17, 2012: Breakfast. Full day tour to Terezin, the former Nazi "model" concentration camp, where we visit the Jewish Museum, the small fortress and the hidden synagogue, as well as the town of Terezin itself. Overnight in Prague.

DAY 5, Thursday, October 18, 2012: Breakfast. Transfer to the airport for our short flight to Budapest, the capital of Hungary. Situated on the opposite banks of the Danube River, the former cities of Buda and Pest are linked by a series of graceful bridges. We enjoy a panoramic bus tour of Budapest, including Parliament, the Royal Palace, the Castle Hill area, Fishermen's Bastion, Coronation Church, Hero's Square and Gellert Hill. Overnight in Budapest.

DAY 6, Friday, October 19, 2012: Breakfast. We begin our day at the Raul Wallenberg Memorial Statue, and then visit the Dohany Synagogue, the 2nd largest synagogue in Europe, and continue on to the Jewish Cemetery and Museum. In the evening there will be Shabbat services at the Hero's Synagogue, followed by Shabbat dinner together. Overnight in Budapest.

DAY 6, Saturday, October 20, 2012: Breakfast. Optional morning Shabbat services available at one of the local Reform congregations. Day at leisure. Overnight in Budapest.

DAY 7, Sunday, October 21, 2012: Breakfast. This morning we depart for Krakow, driving through the lovely hills and countryside of Slovakia, past the Tatras and into the Great Plains of Poland. On arrival, enjoy a city tour that includes Wawel Castle, St. Mary's Church, the Renaissance Cloth Hall and other ancient landmarks. Dinner and overnight in Krakow.

DAY 8, Monday, October 22, 2012: Breakfast. This morning we travel to Auschwitz-Birkenau, the infamous Nazi concentration camps where many Jews and others perished in World War II. Here we see the Museum and pay tribute to the victims. Overnight Krakow.

DAY 9, Tuesday, October 23, 2012: Breakfast. Jewish Heritage Tour includes the Old Jewish District, Kazimierz, where we see the Old Synagogue (a massive fortress-like building erected in the 15th and 16th centuries), the "Temple," and the Ramuh Synagogue. We continue to the Little Museum at the Drug Store inside the Jewish Ghetto, Schindler's Factory, and the Plashow Concentration camp. We then travel by train to Warsaw and check into our hotel. We enjoy dinner and hospitality with members of Beit Warshawa, the new Progressive congregation in Warsaw, as we learn more about the Judaism alive in today's Poland. Overnight Warsaw.

DAY 10, Wednesday, October 24, 2012: Breakfast. City tour of Warsaw including Chopin's Monument, the Royal Castle, the Jewish Historical Society, and walk to Old Town Market Square. Afternoon Jewish Heritage Tour including the Ghetto Wall, the Monument to the Ghetto Fighters, Mila 18, Umschlag Platz and the Gensa Cemetery. Tonight we enjoy a special farewell dinner together and a wonderful gala event! Overnight in Warsaw.

DAY 11, Thursday, October 25, 2012: Breakfast. We transfer to the airport for our flight home.

OR Continue to Kiev, Kirovograd and Odessa

DAY 11, Thursday, October 25, 2012: Breakfast. We transfer to the airport for our flight to Kiev. Transfer to hotel. Visit to International Solomon University. After dinner enjoy a short walk of the city. Overnight Kiev.

DAY 12, Friday, October 26, 2012: Breakfast. Morning tour of Jewish Kiev including Podol and other historic Jewish neighborhoods. Babi Yar. Two Orthodox synagogues. Prepare for Shabbat. Shabbat dinner with Rabbi Alex Dukhnovy and members of the Hatikva Reform Congregation. Kabbalat Shabbat with Hatikvah Reform Congregation. Overnight Kiev

DAY 13, Saturday, October 27, 2012: Departure by bus to Kirovograd. Lunch, tour and meeting in Kirovograd and continue to Odessa. Overnight Odessa.

DAY 14, Sunday, October 28, 2012: Walking tour of Odessa port. Potemkin Steps. Shopping district. Dinner together. Overnight Odessa.

DAY 15, Monday, October 28, 2012: Breakfast... Tour of historic Jewish Odessa including Brodsky Synagogue. Sholem Aleichem House. Jabotinsky House... Sites related to early 20th century Zionist Movement. Lunch at Rosmarin, kosher Israeli-style restaurant. Afternoon tour of modern Jewish Odessa including Reform Congregation building. Jewish Community Center. Chabad and Ohr Someach Synagogues. Farewell dinner with Jewish community members. Overnight Odessa.

DAY 16, Tuesday, October 29, 2012: Breakfast. We transfer to the airport for our flight home.

The Memories Last Forever!
Itinerary subject to change

Tour does not include: Airfare. Departure taxes and fuel surcharges (approximately \$600.00 per person – subject to change until ticketed), any border taxes or visas, tips to guides, driver and dining room waiters (\$15.00 per person, per day, pre-collected), travel insurance (highly recommended), or items of a personal nature. The single supplement for the main tour is \$1,099.00 per person. The extensions is \$1,487.00. The extension single supplement is \$599.00. **CANCELLATION POLICY:** \$100.00 per person charge if cancelled once booked plus any applicable airline penalties. \$250.00 per person plus any additional airline penalties charged if cancelled 60-31 days before departure. 100% penalties apply if cancelled 30 days or less before departure. **Please note that this price reflects a cash discount and is only for payment by cash or check. If you wish to pay by credit card, the land only price is \$2,976.00 and the single supplement is \$1,132.00. The extension price is \$1,532.00 and \$617.00 for the single supplement.**

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Casey Stillman**December 3**

I learned so much about being Jewish while I was studying for my bat mitzvah. To me, one of the most important aspects of being Jewish is helping people in need. I have participated in many mitzvah projects and I have learned so much from each one. I'm really looking forward to reading from the Torah. I love that I will carry on the traditions of my Jewish ancestors and I look forward to visiting Israel in the near future. I want to thank my brother Jacob and my sister Allison for being so patient while I practice my Torah portion and my parents for all of their support.

Blake Rosen**December 3**

I am happy and proud about becoming a bat mitzvah. Throughout the last couple of years I have learned about the Jewish culture and what it is like to be Jewish. In preparation for my bat mitzvah I enjoyed practicing my prayers with my brother Brandon, who had his bar mitzvah three years ago. I am proud to become a responsible young adult and continue being part of the Jewish community. I would like to thank my mother and father for helping me prepare for this milestone in my life.

Zachary Knoop**December 10**

Through Congregation B'nai Yisrael and my family I have discovered what being Jewish means by giving to charity, celebrating Shabbat, and by going to services. I have also been to Israel, and while I was there I felt very close to Judaism. To me the meaning of becoming bar mitzvah is that you are accepting a new more difficult level of responsibility and taking ownership of your actions. While getting ready for my bar mitzvah, my understanding and feeling of being Jewish has become greater and even more meaningful than ever before. I cannot wait for that feeling of awe that everyone says you experience as you read from the Torah. I love to ski and play lacrosse. I am also very interested in architecture. One goal for myself is to make a real difference in the world. Now that I am becoming a bar mitzvah I am committed to figuring out how to do that. Even though we fight a lot, my younger brother Jason will always be my best friend. The main thing I love about my family is that, no matter what, they always stand by me and they are always there to cheer me on and motivate me in everything I do.

Kenneth Linder**January 14**

To be a Jew means to be a person that believes in fair treatment, and the belief of one God through the Ten Commandments. Getting ready for my bar mitzvah has created a new beginning for me by allowing me to start thinking about my future as a Jewish person. As a teenager I would have to be more responsible for myself and would have more responsibilities now that I will be a man in the Jewish religion. I am proud of myself for being able to accomplish my years as a student at the temple. I appreciate my brother, Ian, my mom, Barbara, and my dad, Gary, for always being loving and caring family members.

Abigail Klein**January 21**

My first memories of coming to Congregation B'nai Yisrael were when I was four, having chocolate chip pancakes on Sunday mornings. I was a part of many programs at the temple, until I was finally able to begin my Jewish studies in preparation for my bat mitzvah. This preparation, throughout all of these years, has helped me to realize that my bat mitzvah is not just about one day. It is about the journey that led up to that one day, and beyond. I have watched my older sister, Lizzie, become a bat mitzvah three years ago. She worked so hard, and I know that I can achieve that goal as well. My parents, Kara and Kenny, have been supportive and loving throughout this entire process. Not just in preparation of my bat mitzvah, but pushing me to succeed in everything I do. I would also like to thank my sisters, Lizzie and Kate, for their love and support. I am looking forward to continuing my Jewish life after my bat mitzvah.

IN OUR TEMPLE FAMILY

Congratulations to:

First-time grandparents Shelly and Bernard Jacob, on the birth of Teddy Samuel Meltzer, son of Allison and Eric Meltzer

In Memoriam:

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Isabelle Mendelson, mother of Barbara Mendelson
Rabbi Reuven Siegel, uncle of Frederic J. Siegel

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We are indebted to the following members of our congregation who generously supported our community during this year's High Holy Day Campaign. Our High Holy Day Campaign provides a significant portion of the funds needed to maintain and enrich our spiritual home. These gifts will have a profound impact on how well our temple can serve its members in the coming year. All donations, large and small are greatly appreciated.

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December 2011

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1	2 Family Shabbat 8:00 p.m.	3 Torah Study 9:00 a.m. Casey Stillman bat mitzvah 10:00 a.m. Blake Rosen bat mitzvah 5:00 p.m.
4 Kindergarten 9:30 a.m.	5	6 Board of Trustees 8:00 p.m.	7 Text in the City 12:00 p.m.	8	9 Rosh Chodesh Luncheon & Study Group 12:00 p.m. TOT Shabbat 5:30 p.m. Family Shabbat 8:00 p.m.	10 Torah Study 9:00 a.m. Zachary Knoop bar mitzvah 10:00 a.m. Michelle Katz bat mitzvah 5:00 p.m.
11 1st and 2nd Grade Family Day 9:30 a.m. Gift Giving Party 11:00 a.m.	12	13 Committee Meetings 8:00 p.m.	14	15	16 Early Service 6:30 p.m.	17
18	19	20 Chanukah: 1st Candle	21 Study in the Suburbs 12:00 p.m. Executive Committee 8:00 p.m. Chanukah: 2nd Candle	22 Family Chanukah Celebration and Dinner 5:30 p.m. Chanukah: 3rd Candle	23 Family Shabbat 8:00 p.m. Chanukah: 4th Candle	24 Chanukah: 5th Candle
25 Chanukah: 6th Candle <i>Winter Break No Religious School</i>	26 Chanukah: 7th Candle <i>Winter Break No Religious School</i>	27 Chanukah: 8th Candle <i>Winter Break No Religious School</i>	28 <i>Winter Break No Religious School</i>	29 <i>Winter Break No Religious School</i>	30 Family Shabbat 8:00 p.m.	31

January 2012

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1	2	3 Board of Trustees 8:00 p.m.	4	5	6 Rosh Chodesh Luncheon & Study Group 12:00 p.m. Family Shabbat 8:00 p.m.	7 Torah Study 9:00 a.m.
8 Kindergarten 9:30 a.m. Special Presentation on Jewish Camping at Eisner/Crane Lake 9:30 a.m.	9	10	11 Text in the City 12:00 p.m.	12	13 TOT Shabbat 5:30 p.m. Family Shabbat 8:00 p.m.	14 Torah Study 9:00 a.m. Kenneth Linder bar mitzvah 1:00 p.m.
15 <i>Martin Luther King, Jr., Weekend No Religious School</i>	16 <i>Martin Luther King, Jr., Day No Religious School</i>	17 Committee Meetings 8:00 p.m.	18 Study in the Suburbs 12:00 p.m.	19	20 Early Service 6:30 p.m.	21 Torah Study 9:00 a.m. Abigail Klein bat mitzvah 5:00 p.m.
22 1st and 2nd Grade Family Day 9:30 a.m. Cantor's Concert 4:00 p.m.	23	24	25	26	27 Rosh Chodesh Luncheon & Study Group 12:00 p.m. Family Shabbat 8:00 p.m.	28 Torah Study 9:00 a.m. <i>Midnight Run</i>
29	30	31 Executive Committee 8:00 p.m.				

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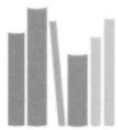
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Wednesday 11:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
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