



## Congregation Beth David Narragansett, Rhode Island

### *CBD NEWS ... Winter 2019*

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## A Hanukkah Music Delight

Fishel Bresler, Rhode Island's premier Klezmer musician, will bring his music to Narragansett for Congregation Beth David's annual Hanukkah program on December 22 at 11 a.m. at the Narragansett Community Center.

Known for his passionate and sensitive playing, Bresler draws audiences of all ages.

"This is inspirational music – you have to play it from your kishkas and from our heart," Bresler has said.

Bresler, who plays clarinet, flute, mandolin, and harmonica, studied Klezmer clarinet and mandolin for more than a decade with contemporary master Andy Statman, a Grammy nominee, who was also a guest performer on a Grammy winning album by Bela Fleck and the Flecktones.

Besides performing, Bresler works with children with multiple handicaps, providing music therapy and also teaches both children and adults in several schools and programs.



## Congregation Beth David's Annual Appeal

*"I am incredibly proud of what a fantastic job CBD does of being a warm, welcoming and inclusive community, and how much we can accomplish with limited resources."*

This quote, from a member who responded to our recent High Holidays survey, best captures what Congregation strives to be. Not surprisingly, "limited resources" - including financial – are a challenge that we must address annually.

Annual dues and school tuition fund only 57% of our annual operating budget. Costs for compensating our Rabbi, the High Holidays Cantor and educators, as well as building security, continue to rise. For example, this year we have hired a security consultant to further enhance physical security at CBD and events held outside of CBD, and to provide training for our members (at no charge).

To make up for the shortfall we depend in large part on our Annual Appeal. Our goal this year is to raise \$19,000. We hope you will consider increasing your annual appeal gift from last year (shown below, if any) by at least 3%. If you have not responded to the Appeal in the past, or you are new to the CBD community, we ask that you do so this year. We greatly appreciate whatever amount you feel you can give, regardless

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**From Rabbi Adler**

## What a shame!

### ('Shame' is the Hebrew word for 'name')



Chanukah is known by several names: "Chag Ha-Urim" – "Festival of Lights"; "Chag Hanisim" – "Festival of Miracles" and of course "Chag HaMatanot" – "Festival of Gifts". (The third name is made up.)

The Chanukah spinning toy is called "Dreidle" from the Yiddish word meaning to turn; "Sevivon" from the Hebrew word meaning to spin; "Lehamer" from the Hebrew word meaning gamble. (The third name is made up. )

The potato treat is called "Latke" from the Yiddish word meaning small pancake; "Levivot" from the Hebrew word meaning dough dumpling; "Shamnuni" – from the Hebrew word meaning oily. (The third name is made up.)

Whatever the names we use, Chanukah has become a favorite Jewish holiday that has all the components of a meaningful commemoration. It is a historical time when our ancestors defeated an anti-Semitic enemy and heroes stepped up to protect our legacy. Today we celebrate Chanukah with rituals and ceremonies at home with family; special associated foods; and opportunities to engage in family disputes – do you load the candles left to right, or right to left (right to left); do you light the candles left to right, or right to left? (left to right); are latkes best eaten with applesauce or sour cream (depends ...).

So, however you spell the holiday – Chanukah, Hanukah, Hannukah, or even Chanuqa – one thing is for sure – it is a great holiday, bringing much needed light into the darkness of the winter season.

Wishing all of you peace, joy, and love this Hanukkah and beyond!

*Rabbi Ethan and Lori Adler*

# Lighting the Hannukah Candles

Hannukah begins the evening of December 22. We say all three prayers on the first night, and the first two on all other nights.

1. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר  
קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

*Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu  
b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the Hanukkah lights.

2. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁעָשָׂה  
נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

*Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, she-asah nisim  
la'avoteinu (v'imoteinu) bayamim hahaeim baz'man hazeh.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

3. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ  
וְקִיָּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה

*Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, shehecheyanu  
v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man hazeh.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.



## CBD Hebrew School



We kicked off the 2019-2020 Hebrew School year with an afternoon of fun at Adventureland. Since then, with instruction from our fantastic teaching staff consisting of Ruth Ribner, Rabbi Sol Goodman, and URI Hillel student leaders and assistant teachers Sydney Root and Sam Zelnock, our students are making excellent progress with Hebrew reading.

They are also studying Jewish history through the stories of famous Jews, and learning about Israel through visits with our fabulous Israeli emissary, Or Cohen.

Children's High Holy Day services at Trio were well attended. The Hebrew School students and graduates read the Torah, blew the shofar, and

all attendees participated in other readings and blessings.

October found the students decorating the sukkah and celebrating Sukkot. During the monthly student-led Shabbat services, the students chanted and read prayers, and enjoyed an ice cream sundae oneg.

In December, the students had a field trip to URI's Hillel Center where they braided challah with Sydney, Sam, and other URI helpers.

For the younger crowd, parents have taken turns organizing the monthly PJ Library. This is an opportunity for children younger than eight to hear a story and do a craft. We also host Pizza Shabbat services on the first Friday of the month. We use an illustrated prayer book at this early Shabbat Service, which is followed by a pizza and veggie supper.

As winter begins, students and their families look forward to the Chanukah, our Tu B'shevat seder, and the Purim carnival. Check the calendar of events on the CBDRI website [www.cbdri.org](http://www.cbdri.org) for dates and other events.



# High Holiday Survey



Thank you to our members who responded to this year's High Holidays services survey. Members responded to questions ranging from what they thought of services overall, the Aqua Blue facility, and Cantor Schubert, to what they were most proud of about Congregation Beth David.

- 98% said services were excellent or good
- 96% liked the Aqua Blue and Trio (children's service) facilities
- 80% rated Cantor Schubert excellent or good; the same percentage said we should invite her back next year
- Responses to what people are most proud of about the CBD community varied, but the general theme was that our community is warm, welcoming, inclusive and caring.
- Concerns about our community include that our members skew older, there is a lack of participation by younger families was of concern, and that there is only a small core group of volunteers make things "happen"

Based on the feedback you provided, we are in discussion with the Aqua Blue facility and Cantor Schubert for next year's High Holidays services. The ritual committee and the Board of Directors have reviewed the other responses, including specific comments, and will consider changes, if any, that are necessary to our High Holiday services

We remain grateful to the Ritual and Membership committees, and to the many greeters who welcomed us upon entering the Aqua Blue. Additional thanks to Rabbi Adler and Cantor Schubert, Laurie Kaufman and Jason Krumholz for leading our children's service, the Torah and Haftorah readers, Sally Chorney for providing the beautiful flower arrangements, and to everyone who helped pack, schlep, tote, carry, and set up at the Aqua Blue and CBD.

Regards,  
Harris

## Donations, October 13, 2019 - December 8, 2020



# Congregation Beth David

Narragansett, Rhode Island

### General Fund

**In Memory of parents, Rose and Louis Chalek and Father-In-Law, Herbert Ruekberg**  
Ronnie Chalek

**In Memory of Ellen Jacober**  
Myrna and Daved Leven

**In Support of CBD's 40th Anniversary**  
Jerrold Salmanson

**In Memory of Father, Max Barnett**  
Stanley Barnett

**In Honor of their 57th Wedding Anniversary and providing refreshments served on NYC trip to Fiddler**  
Beryl and Elliott Chapman

**In Memory of Bruce Grossman**  
Ann Grossman

**In Memory of Daughter, Ellen Jacober**  
Gladys Jacober

**In Memory of Father, Ben Poulten**  
Howard Poulten

**In Memory of Abraham Robrish**  
Carole Robrish

**In Honor of Granddaughter, Lauren Avedesians Bat Mitzvah**  
Shirley Zeldis

**In Memory of William Costantino**  
Carole Robrish

**In Honor of Judy Chorney**  
Rhoda Zaidman

**In Honor of Louis Kirschenbaum's Retirement**  
Liz Karp and Peter Stonberg

**In Memory of Father, Milton Glanz**  
Marcy Glanz

**In Memory of Grace Parness**  
Shirley Parness

**In Support of CBD**  
Amy and Stephen Elman

**In Honor of the Birth of Bernadette Etrup, Granddaughter of JoAnn and Robert Babat**  
Sally and Harris Chorney

**In Memory of Loss of Loved Ones**  
Sally and Chorney

### Oneg/Kiddush Sponsorship

**In Memory of Richard Greenberg and Kenneth Greenberg**  
Marilyn and Jodi Greenberg

**In Honor of Beryl and Elliott's safe return home from Florida**  
Beryl and Elliott Chapman

**In Honor of Granddaughter Bernadette Entrup's Baby Naming**  
JoAnn and Robert Babat

**In Memory of Father Sanford Chorney**  
Nancy Chorney  
Harris Chorney

**In Memory of Aharon Klum**  
Marion Myers

**In Honor of Daughter Lauren Avedesian's Bat Mitzvah**  
Jen and David Avedesian

**In Honor of Rabbi Ethan's Special 70th Birthday**  
Lori Adler

**In Memory of Father, Reynold Katzanek**  
Robin Katzanek

**In Memory of George Labush**  
Harold Labush

**In Memory of Father, Milton Levin**  
Michael Levin

**In Memory of Bella German, Mother of Charles German**  
Esta and Paul Avedesian

**Get Well Wishes o Nephew, Gary Rabinowitz**  
Esta and Paul Avedesian

**In Honor of Granddaughter Lauren Avedesian's Bat Mitzvah**  
Esta and Paul Avedesian

**In Memory of Father and Father-in-Law, Charles Starr**  
Joyce and Robert Starr



## Special Martin Luther King Jr. service – January 17, 2020

*My people were brought to America in chains. Your people were driven here to escape the chains fashioned for them in Europe. Our unity is born of our common struggle for centuries, not only to rid ourselves of bondage, but to make oppression of any people by others an impossibility. – Martin Luther King, Jr. on the Jewish/Black relationship*



Keith Stokes, a noted lecturer on African and Jewish American history, joins us at Friday night services at 8 p.m. on January 17. He'll talk on Civil Rights in Rhode Island in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Keith, who lives in Newport, has served as a Rhode Island Advisor for the National Trust for Historic Preservation along with serving on numerous regional and national historic preservation boards including Chairman of the Touro Synagogue Foundation, Vice President and Trustee of the Preservation Society for Newport County, advisory board of the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society and board member of the Newport Historical Society.

He is a frequent national, state and local lecturer in community and regional planning, historic preservation and interpretation with an expertise in early African and Jewish American history. He has lectured extensively to regional, national and international organizations, providing training in the fields of African and Jewish American history. He is the recipient of the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society's Fredrick Williamson Award, Daughters of the American Revolution Excellence in Community Service Award and along with his wife, is the recipient of the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities Prize for Creative Achievement in the Humanities.

A former director of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation, Keith is president of Strategic Economic Planning and Development with the Mayforth Group, a Providence and Washington based government relations firm. He's also vice president of the 1696 Heritage Group.

### **CBD Annual Appeal** *(from page 1)*

of the amount. Your gift will allow us to enhance and add to our services and programs, and make our community safer.

Being part of a Jewish community like ours gives us the opportunity to share life experiences with a caring group of friends and family, and can be a little pocket of stability and peace in an ever changing and, sometimes, turbulent world. We thank you for your support and for being part of the Congregation Beth David community.

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## Rosh Chodesh Group for Women of All Ages

The Women's Alliance Endowment Fund has awarded \$1,000 to Congregation Beth David to support an intergenerational Rosh Chodesh Group for young girls, teen girls, and women of all ages. Beginning in February 2020, the group will meet every other month and explore a variety of activities that focus on positive attributes of female development and religious identity with activities that:

- Build character by celebrating feminism through an understanding of Jewish culture and religious traditions about Rosh Chodesh.
- Build confidence through physical activities, such as yoga.
- Increase competence about self-defense and self-care.
- Foster intergenerational connections by encouraging participation of girls, mothers, grandmothers, and other women in all activities to not only improve supportive relationships with family members but also build positive connections with other adults.
- Encourage contribution by assisting the CBD Caring Committee in providing meals to congregants who are unable to cook for themselves due to injury, illness, or other reasons.

Please join us for the kick-off event on Sunday, February 2, 2020 at 2 pm. Amy Olson, URI Hillel director, will provide an introduction to the group, followed by an intergenerational yoga class.

Watch the weekly CBD News for details and track events on the CBD Calendar at <https://cbdri.org/events/>.