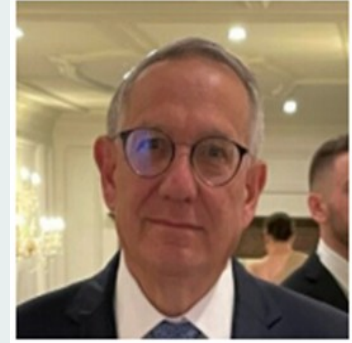




January 2026
Tevet /Shevat 5786
VOLUME 69, ISSUE 7



OHR BITS

The Rabbi's Corner by Rabbi Joel Mishkin

When the Days are Shortest and the Nights are Longest

As we enter the wintry months of January and February, it seems to me that this is as good a time as any for us to think about those individuals who keep our synagogue running smoothly. Without singling out any individuals by name (you know who you are), I am often amazed and grateful that, regardless of the challenges of a small synagogue, we are able to maintain services and programs to any and all of our congregants who desire them. This is due in part to a core group of volunteers who ensure that every aspect of synagogue life is taken care of. Our facility frequently needs repair and our house officers do an outstanding job of keeping the doors open. The worship life of our Congregation continues to be robust and vibrant and our classes are still being attended by a group of faithful students. Additionally, I have lately noticed a small increase in attendance on Shabbat mornings. I can't tell you how nice it is to welcome old friends to our synagogue every so often. Sunday mornings, however, continues to pose an attendance problem and I can only hope that a few of our congregants who don't frequent the synagogue regularly will think about helping us out during these trying winter months.

Continued on Page 2

CONGREGATION BETH OHR

P.O. Box 206
Old Bridge, NJ 08857
732-257-1523

Visit us at:

OldBridgeBethOhr.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Rabbi's Message.....1
Schedule of Services.....2
Perl's Of Wisdom..... 3
Yahrzeits and Donations ..4-7
Ritual and Programs.....8-9
Sisterhood.....9-12
Main Street Theatre.....13
Men's Club.....14

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

- January 02 4:25 pm
- January 09 4:31 pm
- January 16 4:39 pm
- January 23 4:47 pm
- January 30 4:55 pm

Another area of increased concern has to do with those of our membership who are, either physically or geographically unable, to stay in touch with congregational life. While our good and welfare chairperson continues to do an outstanding job of maintaining contact with some of our more homebound or nursing-facility congregants, this problem continues to challenge us. If you would like to help out by making a few phone calls or even make a visit, please contact me so that I might recommend the names of some of our members to you. It is not an overwhelming number by any means, but a little bit of help could go a very long way.

Finally, as we look forward to the start of 2026, I pray that all of you will continue to feel that Congregation Beth Ohr is a place where you know that you can find friendship, fellowship, spiritual meaning and above all, a place of peace. Please know that we are here for you to celebrate the joyous times in your lives and to provide you comfort if and when the need arises.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Friday Night Shabbat Service

6:00 PM via Zoom

January 02, 09, 16, 23, 30

Saturday Shabbat Service

9:30 AM in the Sanctuary

January 03, 10, 17, 24, 31

Sunday Morning Service

9:00 AM in the Sanctuary

January 04, 11, 18, 25

CONTACT RABBI MISHKIN

Office: 732-257-1523, option 2

941-518-8864, after hours for emergencies

By email : rabbijoelmishkin@gmail.com

On-Going Synagogue Fund Raiser

Getting company and don't know what to serve?

Extra company coming and need to add to your menu?

Don't forget that any time you buy from Fred and Murry's Deli on Rte. 9, Beth Ohr earns 10%.

A little extra chopped liver couldn't hurt!

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline to submit items for February's Newsletter is Tuesday, January 27, 2026.

Please email your articles to Meryl on or before that date.

PERL'S OF WISDOM by Jeff Perlman

From the President's Desk

I spent a month on the internet the other day.

It started innocently enough. I went on YouTube to get the guitar chords for *Chanukah Oh Chanukah*. Along the way I discovered all the supplements I should have for all the ailments that my body may or will have. I learned that I should walk more for better health, except that I shouldn't walk more; but do this or that instead. And as much as I didn't trust most of what I read online previously, I see that AI has taken over. It seems that everything is now fabricated. by some unknown intelligence



Mixed in there was some interesting stuff. Park Avenue Synagogue and Central Synagogue in NY, reformed synagogues, live stream their services. Their sanctuaries are full. They have full bands and guitar players packed with kids. Very entertaining, but it becomes a show. Here at Beth Ohr, we have a consistent number of people who come to services-15 to 20. That's it! Same number, same faces, week after week on Friday night zoom and on Saturday morning in our sanctuary. I'm very grateful to them. They keep us going. During the Chanukah week, we had a community zoom candle lighting. Each day as the lights shone brighter with each additional candle added, the number of people logging on diminished to where we had only three households on the seventh day. On the eighth night we had five households, so I gave in to my wife's wishes and played *Oh Chanukah* on the guitar to try and add some festivity. I rarely play in public. Sorry if you missed this momentous occasion!

I had a guitar lesson last Thursday. My instructor is not Jewish but easily could be. He knows all the Debbie Friedman songs. He is the one who taught Jules Frankel, a gentleman who would come into EBJC and Solomon Schechter Day School some time ago. He would play guitar for the kids and teach them all the Jewish songs. My instructor asked me a simple but pointed question. He asked, "When the Jewish community becomes a target of antisemitism, does the attendance at your services go up.?" My answer came too quickly for my liking. I said no. He lives in Old Bridge by the way, not far from Beth Ohr. He sees our parking lot filled by Mezcal and by Main Street Theater but sparsely filled on Saturday mornings. My non-Jewish friend cares.

We're still here for you. Let's learn from our Rabbi, not from YouTube or AI. Learn from his sermons, learn from his weekly class. Learn from Linda Benish's weekly class. Learn from Ed Mendlowitz's weekly D'var Torah's sent out to all our congregants. Find your way back to our sanctuary. It's healing. It's community. It's our answer to all the hate aimed at us. The internet will only suck you in to endless hours of mind-numbing dribble.

And what are the guitar chords for Auld Lang Syne? **Oh, I can get that on YouTube.**

Have a Happy & Healthy 2026

Shalom

Yahrzeit Donations

We acknowledge the following for their contributions.

| Donated By | In Loving Memory Of |
|--|---|
| Nelson & Arlene Silver | Morris Silver |
| Sue Edwards | Ida Rubrum |
| Linda & Allen Skupp | George Skupp |
| Brenda Corrao | David Abstender, Lipsa Abstender |
| Meryl Finkelstein | Joseph Gray |
| Ann Herrmann, Susan Belmont & Families | William Greenspan, Rose "Ro-Ro" Birnbaum, & Meyer Fusfeld |
| Ellie Honig | Ephraim Ruckelman |
| Lee Hyman | Alex & Ida Waranch |
| Clifford Shulman | Jacob Shulman |
| Len & Irene Ullman | Paul Kalefsky & Bertha Ullman |
| Steven & Sara Ullman | Mayer Ettner |
| Wilma & Allen Appel | Betty Appel & Bessie Davis |
| Herman Blitzstein | Mary Blitzstein |
| Shapiro Family | Joanne Shapiro |
| Melvin Ward | Lillian Warshofsky |
| Prussack Family | Martha Prussack |
| Paula & Randy Eisen | Aaron Narol |
| Andrea & Mark Chassen | Florence Noah |
| Ilene & Barry Gray | Howard Gray |
| Gail & Stuart Rizick | Frances Wildstein |

January 2026 YAHRZEITS

The actual date that the Yahrzeit is observed is to the right of the name. It is customary to light a memorial candle on the eve of this date and to give tzedakah in the memory of the Yahrzeit. One should recite the Mourner's Kaddish at services the evening before as well as the day of the Yahrzeit. The name of your departed will be read at the Friday evening and Shabbat morning services the week before the Yahrzeit date which are represented by the dates in the columns which are in bold print.

| January 2/3 | | January 2/3 | | Cont. | January 16/17 | | Cont. | January 23/24 | |
|---------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|--------------|----------------------|-------|--------------|----------------------|-------|
| Tessie Davis | 01/03 | Ira Woods | 01/08 | | Jack Boshak | 01/18 | | Sol Borenstein | 01/24 |
| Pearl Ebenstein | 01/03 | Lipsa Abstender | 01/09 | | Meyer Fufeld | 01/18 | | Sara Feinman | 01/24 |
| Hyman Fersht | 01/03 | Mary Blitzstein | 01/09 | | Joseph Gray | 01/18 | | Elaine Gallin | 01/24 |
| Eleanor Schneider | 01/03 | Lee J. Reisfield | 01/09 | | Leonard Pulchin | 01/18 | | Jennie Kornreich | 01/24 |
| Miriam Waxenberg | 01/03 | Floyd Shumer | 01/09 | | Irving Steuer | 01/18 | | Jerry Newman | 01/24 |
| Sidney Bienenfeld | 01/04 | January 9/10 | | | Gerald Wasserman | 01/18 | | Helmut Fuerth | 01/25 |
| Paul Kaminsky | 01/04 | Miriam Goldstein | 01/10 | | Edith Ida Blank | 01/19 | | Elaine Leibowitz | 01/25 |
| Rose Rosenblum | 01/04 | Fannie Pudnos | 01/10 | | Benjamin Feldheim | 01/19 | | Herman Rosenfeld | 01/25 |
| Rose Ruth Birnbaum | 01/05 | Ida Rubrum | 01/10 | | Irwin Kaminsky | 01/19 | | Ephraim Ruchelman | 01/25 |
| Gary Alan Chekofsky | 01/05 | Leonard Finkelstein | 01/11 | | Ignatie Kardos | 01/19 | | Harold Shapiro | 01/25 |
| Morty Gallin | 01/05 | Morris Radvinoviez | 01/11 | | Anna Lubow | 01/19 | | Leon Praport | 01/26 |
| William Greenspan | 01/05 | Sam Schnitzer | 01/11 | | Bronia Shindelman | 01/19 | | Yitzkok Shleifer | 01/26 |
| Leon Arthur Reinhartz | 01/05 | Florence Trechak | 01/11 | | Iris Sweig | 01/19 | | Clara Star | 01/26 |
| Jerry Shindelman | 01/05 | Solomon Kaminsky | 01/12 | | George Dragunoff | 01/20 | | Belle Vogel | 01/26 |
| Lillian Simkin | 01/05 | Lillian Persky | 01/12 | | Bahckmal Kikorov | 01/20 | | Jacob Finkelstein | 01/27 |
| Esther Solomon | 01/05 | Martha Prussack | 01/12 | | Sylvia Rauch | 01/20 | | Johanna Diamant | 01/27 |
| Frances Wildstein | 01/05 | Murray I. Berkowitz | 01/13 | | Rachel Shapiro | 01/20 | | Katz | 01/27 |
| Samuel Mautner | 01/06 | Max Blutman | 01/13 | | George Skupp | 01/20 | | Esther Solomon | 01/27 |
| Lillian Melman | 01/06 | Bella Hyman | 01/13 | | Laura Cronin | 01/21 | | Dorothy Katz | 01/28 |
| Vera Nussenbaum | 01/06 | Thelma Rothstein | | | Minnie Kuritzky | 01/21 | | Joel Kirschner | 01/28 |
| Beckie Tischler | 01/06 | Quinn | 01/13 | | Bette Kushner | 01/21 | | Fannie Miller | 01/28 |
| Morris Akronowitz | 01/07 | Israel Saul Ebenstein | 01/14 | | Helen Lehrer | 01/21 | | Philip Shindelman | 01/28 |
| Sonia Feinman | 01/07 | Samuel Glazier | 01/14 | | Hugh Miller | 01/21 | | Sofia Shulman | 01/28 |
| Erich Hollander | 01/07 | Sylvia Kagan | 01/14 | | Aaron Narol | 01/21 | | Isidore Zavlek | 01/28 |
| Yetta Kaminsky | 01/07 | Mary Karmin | 01/14 | | Lazar Rosenthal | 01/21 | | Marilyn Dorfman | 01/29 |
| Robert Lionheart | 01/07 | Phyllis Nightingale | 01/14 | | Fannie Seidner | 01/21 | | Mayer Ettner | 01/29 |
| Manny Friedman | 01/08 | Rosemarie Sender | 01/14 | | Benny Feld | 01/22 | | Morris Gilbert | 01/29 |
| Robert Fredrick Goldstein | 01/08 | Rose Rothstein | 01/15 | | Henry Kanter | 01/22 | | Rubin Ross | 01/29 |
| Rozanne Lerner | 01/08 | January 16/17 | | | Barbara Lipp | 01/22 | | Minnie Wernick | 01/29 |
| Arthur H. Mautner | 01/08 | Bessie Davis | 01/17 | | Florence Noah | 01/22 | | Isidore Wilpon | 01/29 |
| Howard Pfeffer | 01/08 | Fred Fields | 01/17 | | Hannah Wolff | 01/22 | | Sheila Klein | 01/30 |
| Sadie Rankowitz | 01/08 | Jonathan Frank | 01/17 | | Melvin Bondy | 01/23 | | Samuel Rosenthal | 01/30 |
| Myrna Ricklin | 01/08 | Ruth Jane Risman | 01/17 | | Leo Fuchs | 01/23 | | | |
| Anna Schlissel | 01/08 | Mollie Schneider | 01/17 | | Samuel Gold | 01/23 | | | |
| Jacob Shulman | 01/08 | Joanne Shapiro | 01/17 | | Betty Karp | 01/23 | | | |
| Lillian Warshofsky | 01/08 | Isadore Sibelman | 01/17 | | Edward Nightingale | 01/23 | | | |
| | | | | | Susan Helen Nikop | 01/23 | | | |
| | | | | | Robert Sheffler | 01/23 | | | |
| | | | | | Gussie Zaret | 01/23 | | | |

CONGREGATION BETH OHR MEMORIAL FUNDS

The following is a listing of the tax-deductible Memorial Funds, and other Funds, to which tax deductible donations may be made. When donating to these funds, please make your checks out to Congregation Beth Ohr and write the fund's name in the memo portion of the check.

David Benish Memorial Fund
Ralph Karpel Memorial Fund
Elaine Leibowitz Memorial Fund
Herman & Frieda Lipp Memorial Fund
Stanley M. Perlman Memorial Fund
Stuart Polovsky Memorial Fund
Heidi Rogol Memorial Fund

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Donation from Nelson Silver & Arlene Silver

Donation from Susan & Larry Ross

Donation from Ilene Gray

Donation from Rysie & Jeff Perlman as congratulations to Rabbi Mishkin on his Mensch Award & for all the wonderful things he does for the Synagogue

David Benish Memorial Fund

Donation from Allan & Linda Benish for the Yahrzeits of beloved grandfather Otto Elkan & beloved mother Rosemarie Sender

GENERAL ANNOUCEMENTS

Barbara Schneider proudly announces the marriage of her grandson Max Flores to Andrea. Parents are Julie and Rick Flores

Baruch Dayan HaEmet

Harriet Cohen's daughter-in-law, Stephanie Whidden Cohen, wife of Mitchel Cohen passed away on November 30, 2025

For your convenience, we have included this **Yahrzeit Memorial Plaque Form**. If you would like to order a plaque, please fill out and return this form with a check in the amount of **\$325** to the Synagogue office. If you have any questions about Hebrew names and/or dates, please call Meryl in the office at 732-257-1523.



(Print Name in Hebrew Here)

(Print Name in English Here)

(Date in English) _____ (Date in Hebrew) _____

PLEDGE

I hereby authorize you to supply and maintain permanently on your Memorial Tablet, a name plate *in memory of*

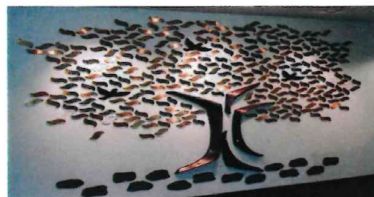
NAME IN FULL _____

for which I agree to pay \$325. It is mutually agreed that each year, on the Yahrzeit of the departed, and on other appropriate occasions in accordance with Jewish custom a Memorial Prayer will also be said.

Signed by _____

Date _____

Tree of Life
to honor or memorialize a loved one
Leaf - \$118.00



THANK YOU

The Ritual Committee extends a sincere Thank You to the Rogol Family, Roberta Karpel, Lisa Mason, Allen Appel, Allen Skupp, Rabbi Mishkin, Linda Benish and Rysie Perlman for reciting the blessings at our Annual Chanukah Menorah Lighting and to Chuck Rogol, Harriet Rabinowitz, Peter Polovsky, Allen Skupp, Rabbi Mishkin, Linda Benish and Rysie Perlman for handling the Zoom responsibilities so our entire membership could participate in this community event.

RITUALLY SPEAKING—SHARE A SIMCHA

The Ritual Committee will honor members celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other Simchas once a month at a Shabbat service. Mazel Tov to the following congregants who will be celebrating their simchas during the month of January. We will celebrate Simcha Shabbat on Saturday, January 10, 2026.

| Birthdays | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Names | Dates |
| Susan Ross | January 05 |
| Edna Yourman | January 07 |
| Dorothy Shafran | January 08 |
| Cathy Silver | January 08 |
| Deborah Weintraub | January 12 |
| Stephen Lerner | January 14 |
| Eileen Birnbaum | January 15 |
| Arlene Silver | January 22 |
| Diane Saks | January 26 |
| Estee Spiegel | January 29 |
| Charles Rogol | January 31 |

| Anniversaries | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Names | Dates |
| Mr. & Mrs. Mark Atzbi | January 12 |
| Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lerner | January 30 |

PROGRAM “BITS”

REMEMBER THIS?

“It was delightful,” “This was SO nice,” “We really enjoyed this afternoon,” “What a wonderful experience.” These were just some of the responses of those who attended our Tu B’Shvat Seder last year and the year before. Rabbi Mishkin led the program after we all shared a lovely Kiddush lunch.

SO, LET’S DO IT AGAIN!

We can each have our own “Haggadah” while we eat the foods of Israel, learn about the land and its produce, drink some wine, and sing some songs.



COME TO THE TU B’SHVAT SEDER

CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF THE TREES

THINK SPRING IN JANUARY!!!!

Saturday, January 31 st after services

Light lunch and then the Seder with

Fruits and grains of Israel

Wine

Singing

Fun

Don’t miss it!

WHEN? January 31 st following Shabbat morning services

RSVP to Meryl at 732-257-1523 by Monday, Jan. 26, 2026



Shalom,

We hope everyone had a happy Chanukah and wish everyone a happy and healthy 2026!!

On Wednesday, January 14, 2026, we will meet Jane Loeb-Rubin, on Zoom at 7:00 PM. We will discuss her book *In The Hands of Women*. See the flyer in this Newsletter. The zoom link will be emailed by Harriet Rabinowitz prior to the event.

Our Annual Sisterhood Shabbat will be held on Saturday, February 14, 2026 at 9:30 AM in the sanctuary. If you are interested in participating (English or Hebrew), please contact Harriet Rabinowitz (harriet.rabinowi@gmail.com) by February 1st. We also need members to assist Lisa Mason with the Kiddush Luncheon following the service. Please contact Lisa at folfy4@gmail.com.

Scrip is available at the Temple office from Meryl during her work hours. Please contact her ahead of time to expect you. Of course, scrip is also available from Monica Atzbi, Sharen Silverman, or Marcia Trechak. This is a good way to earn donor credit.

Please feel free to contact any member of the Presidium: Monica Atzbi, Barbara Schneider or Liz Aroyo.

Ilene Gray A-K ileneg22@comcast.net

Liz Aroyo L-Z mikeliza3@comcast.net

Shalom, Liz Aroyo, Presidium Member

LAST CALL—2026 Mah Jongg Cards

Orders are now being taken for the new Mah Jongg cards for 2026!

Small cards are \$14, and large cards are \$15. Make your check payable to Sisterhood Beth Ohr and send it with your name, address, and card size to:

Maxine Kaufman
118 Willet Way
West Deptford, NJ 08086
856 848-3113

The deadline for orders is Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

Join us on Zoom
Wed, January 14, 2026
7PM

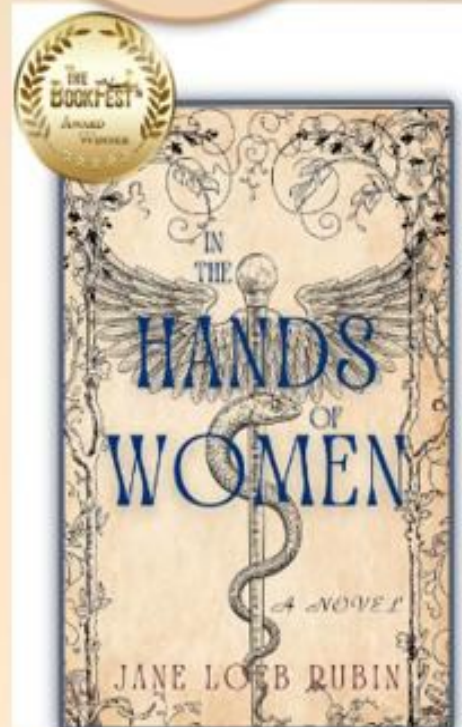
Link will be sent a few days
before event.



In the Hands of Women, a best selling, award winning historical suspense novel, centers on the life of Hannah Isaacson, an obstetrician in training, determined to improve medical safety for women in a time when women had few choices. This carefully researched work and riveting novel is set in Baltimore and New York City in the year 1900, when birth control and abortion were both illegal, leaves us contemplating whether history is repeating itself.

MEET THE
Author

Jane
Loeb-Rubin



SISTERHOOD ON-GOING FUND RAISERS

SISTERHOOD SCRIP

Sisterhood sells Shoprite, Stop 'n' Shop, and Acme Supermarket Gift Cards. This ongoing fundraiser helps support various activities of our Congregation. Sisterhood members receive donor credit equal to 5% of their scrip purchase.

To purchase Scrip, please contact one of the following people:

Monica Atzbi - 732-390-5890

Sharen Silverman - 732-266-2389

Marcia Trechak - 609-655-9507

Please call Meryl at 732-257-1523 or email her at congregationbethohr@gmail.com with your order.



SISTERHOOD BRICKS

Bricks are available for \$6.00 each to commemorate a death, birth, in honor of, or good wishes. Call Ronnie Mendlowitz at 732-254-1135 or email her at emrmcats@aol.com.

GOLD CARDS

Paula Yourman is Sisterhood's Hallmark lady. She is always willing to send your personal cards through Sisterhood. Just email the information to Paula at bubbe513@gmail.com or call her at 609-409-0346.

We have cards for speedy recovery, good wishes and remembrance. Each card is \$1.50, which includes the stamp. Some of you believe that cards can only be sent to Temple members, but I will send cards to anyone.

If you want a message to go out, please let me know, as I will not send anything out that comes to me second hand; it needs to come directly from you.

ADDITIONAL DONATIONS AND HIGH HOLIDAY MACHZORS

Donations in memory of, or to honor someone, can be made to Sisterhood, Congregation Beth Ohr. Please send your donation to: Meryl Finkelstein, 234 Community Circle, Old Bridge, NJ 08857.

If you would like to donate a High Holiday Prayer Book (Machzor) in memory of, or to honor someone, send a check for \$36.00 per Book, made out to Sisterhood, Congregation Beth Ohr and mail it to Meryl at the address in the previous paragraph. If you have any questions, please email Meryl at merylrob@aol.com or call her at 732-679-8701.

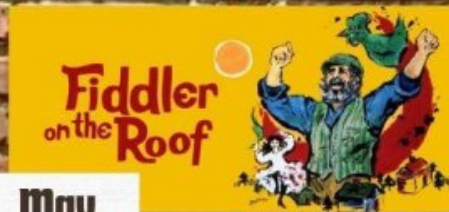
ANNOUNCING
MAIN STREET
THEATER COMPANY
2026 SEASON



January



March



May



July



August



October



December