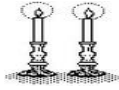




**Newsletter of: December 2011 & January 2012
Kislev/Tevet 5772**

Candle Lighting Times



- December 2.....4:11pm
- December 9.....4:10pm
- December 16.....4:12pm
- December 23.....4:15pm
- December 30.....4:19pm
- January 6..... 4:25pm
- January 13.....4:32pm
- January 20.....4:40pm
- January 27.....4:49pm

Schedule of Services

Rabbi Dina Rosenberg

Shabbat Schedule

Friday Evening 6:30pm

(Enter on 81st Street, glass door)

Saturday Morning 9:00am

(enter on 4th avenue)

Weekly Minyan

Sundays 9:00am

Mondays & Thursdays 6:30am

(Enter on 81st Street, glass door)

Hebrew School

Wednesdays 4:00pm-6:00pm

Rabbi's Adult Education Class

Wednesdays 7:00pm-8:00pm

President's Message:



Bruchim Ha'Baim! We welcome everyone to the Bay Ridge Jewish Center! Now, when you enter our historic building, you will be walking through beautiful brand new doors! This is quite a change from the old doors which after decades of wear and tear and several break-ins, resembled a jig-saw puzzle with some missing pieces. You may also notice security cameras that have been installed throughout the perimeter and within the building. We are shaping up our building and our mission for the 21st century.

I am still asked fairly often, "Are you selling the Building? What are the plans?" No, we are not selling the building and our plans are to be here on the corner of 4th Avenue & 81st Street for generations to come. Our goal is for the Jewish people of Bay Ridge, friends and relatives, to continue to enjoy the BRJC as the center of Jewish life in our community, where they can socialize and participate in our Jewish culture and heritage far into the future.

The BRJC is headed in a new direction! Our choice of **Rabbi Dina Rosenberg** as our spiritual leader has proven to be a great move on our part. She has immersed herself in the Bay Ridge community and is committed to providing a Jewish connection for children, families, singles, inter-marrieds and seniors. In the four months since her arrival, there have been more and more

young families and children at all of our events. Our membership has increased and we now have many more children in the Hebrew School.

We have new programs such as a Tot Shabbat Program and First Friday of the Month Family Service & Pot Luck Dinner. Rabbi Rosenberg has started a community service component in the Hebrew School and along with children and parents, she has attended the 9/11 Memorial Walk, given water to runners at the NYC Marathon and plans to visit the sick & elderly in our community. Both first time attendees and those who come to services regularly, agree that Rabbi Rosenberg's services, which are in both English and Hebrew with many explanations interjected throughout are very 'user-friendly'. Children are joyfully welcomed and invited onto the *Bima* to carry a toy *Torah* or sing along. Speaking of children, we all recently participated in the *Simchat-Bat* baby-naming of Jessica (Esther Malke) born to Marcy and Amy Kotler. We extend a hearty *Mazal Tov* and thank them and their families for sharing this special occasion with us!

I wish to thank all of the people who continue to work selflessly to fix our building, manage our finances, plan events, donate money and do whatever has to be done to make things work well. You are the life force of the BRJC. We need you, we depend on you and wish you a Ya'Sher Koach!

Happy Chanukah to all!

Ruth Masyr, President

How to reach Rabbi Rosenberg rabbi@bayidgejewishcenter.org
Office hours: **Tuesdays 12noon-3pm or by appointment.**
718 836-3103



Please join us for our Hanukkah Celebration on

December 20th -6:00-8:00pm

Our Family Hanukkah Feast will be a fun filled evening with food, entertainment, socializing and games. Whether you love Latkas or a game of Dreidel -- this is one event you won't want to miss! This feast is designed for participation by individuals of all ages.

We hope to see you there!

Adults: \$8 per person Children: \$4 each

Please RSVP office@bayridgejewishcenter.org



**Bay Ridge Jewish Center
Congregation Sheiris Israel**

405 81 Street, Brooklyn, New York 11209 •718-836-3103
Fax: 718-745-4365 •E-mail: brjc11209@aol.com.

- Rabbi.....Dina Rosenberg
- President.....Ruth Masyr
- Vice-President.....Ruth Shulman
- Treasurer.....Herbert Klein
- Recording Secretary.....Joel Silberstein
- Chair. Bd. of Trustees.....Herbert Karasik
- Gaboyim.....Solomon Greenberg, Henry Aron & Simon Gleyzerman
- SecretarySusan Altman
- Sisterhood Presidium.....Florence Paley

On Going Activities

Yoga Class with Patti Kelly

Mondays 6:15-7:30pm
9 weeks for \$110 per person
Drop-ins welcome-
\$15 per class



Tai Chi Class

Thursdays 10:00-11:15am
"Get excited about relaxing"
\$10 per class
drop-ins Welcome
\$18 per class



Rabbi's Adult Education Class

Wednesdays 7:00-8:00pm

Tai Chi Forms

All levels
Thursdays, 6:30-7:45pm
\$15 per class

Rabbi's Message:



Each day I open the newspaper hoping to see positive headlines but knowing instead I will read about destruction, extremism, and religious violence. We often read of violence occurring for the sake of 'their God'. When I read of these stories, I am saddened and disgusted by the misuse of religion. I

believe that no better message of tolerance and acceptance can be explicated than is evident by this week's parsha, Parshat Noah.

The story of Noah and the Flood stems out of a generation that is filled with violence, wickedness, and a general disdain for God and humanity. Noah is said to have been the only righteous man in his time. God chooses to save Noah, his family, and two of every animal. As punishment for their actions, God wipes out the entire population – man and animal. At the end of the flood, God makes a promise to humanity, that never again, will God destroy the world. He seals this promise with an eternal sign for the future generations - a rainbow.

Due to the flood, humanity is destined to descend fully from Noah. One son, Shem, is the father of the Jewish People. And Noah's other 2 sons, Ham and Japhet are the ancestors of Asians, Africans, Europeans... In other words, we are *all* B'nei Noah, children of Noah.

While this story is tragic because of the sheer number of deaths, we have the opportunity to grasp a beautiful lesson: God is the God of all humanity and thus cares equally for all of God's children. God will cherish a righteous individual equally, regardless of religious affiliation.

But, if God is the God of the whole world, wouldn't God have the same relationship with everyone?

In contrast to many other religions, Judaism does not try to convert others. Instead, Judaism acknowledges that God has covenants with many different groups of peo-

ple – the Assyrians and Egyptians are just two of the many covenantal relationships explicitly mentioned in the Torah. Rather, Judaism's focus is on the values and actions that inform the way each individual chooses to live. While Jews are given 613 commandments/*mitzvot* to follow in the Torah, all children of Noah (every person) is obligated to follow seven commandments

- Noahide Laws – Laws that are binding on ALL people
 - establishing courts of justice and rule of law
 - prohibiting idolatry
 - prohibiting blasphemy
 - prohibiting sexual immorality
 - prohibiting bloodshed
 - prohibiting theft
 - prohibiting tearing a limb from a living animal

These rules establish a basis for moral interaction, justice, and compassion for other human beings and for the animal world. According to Judaism, God judges humans not according to which institution or religion that they frequent, but instead, God judges humans based on decency, morality, and goodness – from everyone- Jew and Non-Jew alike.

As many of our children come from multi-faith families, it is important that we welcome all members of a family into our community – regardless of their faith. I can attest to many families in which the non-Jewish parent is more actively involved in the synagogue. Especially in a small community like ours, it is crucial that we encourage everyone to be true to their own beliefs and passions without judging their choices. Rabbi Artson says it quite well, "God demands goodness of the Jew no less than of the non-Jew, and loves the Gentile no less than the Jew. And so should we." May our community be strengthened by its diversity and openness in accepting all individuals of moral integrity and goodness.

Rabbi Dina Rosenberg

Hebrew School News:

Our Hebrew School has grown dramatically in the last few months! With over 13 children, the youth have begun learning the Hebrew Alphabet, singing the Shema, and learning about the Holidays. They have

created spice boxes for Havdalah out of the Etrogim from Sukkot and they continue to be excited about coming to BRJC and spending time with their friends!



Tot Shabbat For Families with Children

Ages 4 and Younger

An Introduction to the Shabbat Morning Service. Babies and toddlers are exposed to the sights and sounds of Shabbat in a lively Shabbat service. The service follows the outline of the Shabbat service, supplemented with fun and engaging Shabbat songs, stories, and dancing. Parents attend with their children, thus creating friendships and a sense of *kehila* (community). The tactile is emphasized in this service: we use rhythm instruments and have stuffed plush Torahs for everyone to dance with!



Read Any Good Books Lately?

"So many books, so little time..."

In his first novel, *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*, author David Wroblewski has created a breathtaking tale of contrasts - love and devotion vs. treachery and revenge - set in the backwoods of Wisconsin in the middle of the twentieth century. For generations, the Sawtelle family business has been raising and training an unusual breed of dog with a unique temperament and personality.

Although young Edgar is born mute, he quickly finds a way to communicate with the dogs, becoming lovingly devoted to their care and training as he follows the guidance of his parents. Life is good as Edgar develops an especially close relationship with Almondine, one of the older Sawtelle dogs. Then the family's challenging, but fulfilling, life takes a turn when Edgar's troubled uncle shows up at the farm and stirs up old family resentments.

When tragedy strikes, Edgar feels he has no choice but to leave his home and life as he

knows it, to protect himself from a situation in which he experiences sorrow and rage and that he feels he has no control over. Accompanied by three of his dogs, he begins a journey of survival and self-realization in the wilderness. What ensues when Edgar finally does decide to return home culminates in a heart-stopping thriller which makes the reader just want to somehow reach out and scream a warning!

In this wonderfully written novel, father, son and the dog Almondine, touchingly narrate the story. The reader need not be a dog lover to appreciate and understand the relationship and the deep connection that the humans, particularly Edgar, have with these special dogs. This story will engage you to the stunning end.

Well, I hope you have had the opportunity to read *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick, since I wrote about it in a previous book review. The 3D movie *Hugo* has just been released and it is true to the book, very entertaining and visually stunning. Although it is technically a children's book, many adults will find it a unique and fun

book to read. It is a story in words and pictures (over 400 pen and ink drawings!) that will make you want to read the next book written and illustrated by Selznick....

...And that book has just been published! **Selznick's *Wonderstruck*** follows the same format of words and pictures but tells a totally different story...actually two stories. One story, about a boy named Ben, takes place in 1977 and is told only through the text. The other story, about a girl named Rose, takes place 50 years earlier and is told only through the illustrations.

Both characters, lonely and deaf, leave their homes on a journey to New York City to search for something that is important to each of them, but missing in their lives. Their stories continuously alternate throughout the book until they become intertwined in a clever and original story of fulfillment and surprise. Particularly meaningful for us city folk... both Ben and Rose end up at the American Museum of Natural History and other locations in New York City. Another winner for Brian Selznick!

- Lynne Grant

Pizza in the Hut

The Sukkah was filled with laughter, squealing, and excited voices as many young families joined together to shake the Lulav, decorate the Sukkah, and eat some pizza. With over 25 children present, it was a blast! Our next family event will be a Hanukkah Party on **December 20th**; JOIN US!

Wine and Cheese

The Young Professionals (ages 21-35) gathered together for an evening of wine tasting, cheese, and a lot of laughter. While the young professionals enjoyed the cheese more than wine - we had a wonderful time learning about each other and planning future programs. Stay tuned for the next Young Professional's Event!

Volunteering at the NYC Marathon

On November 6th, many young families joined together to volunteer at the NYC Marathon. While wearing bright orange ponchos, the children handed out water and gatorade to runners at Mile 3. Thank you to the parents and children who woke up extremely early on a Sunday morning to volunteer your time; I know that you made a difference! **December 11th** is the date for our next volunteer project.

Family Shabbat Dinner

Our first Family Shabbat was a great success! With over 50 participants, children and adults alike had a great time singing songs, participating in storytelling, socializing and eating fantastic home cooked food. Join us **December 2nd at 6pm** for our next Family Shabbat Service and Potluck Dinner!

High Holiday Children's Program

Many children attended our lively children's programming during the Holidays! Between storytelling, role playing, making *tzedakkah* boxes and Kiddush cups - the children enjoyed spending time at BRJC with their new friends.



Mazel Tov!

To parents Marcy & Amy
Kotler on the baby naming of
their daughter Jessica

On Saturday, November 26, 2011

Sisterhood Sheiris Israel



invites you to a
special

"Chai Tea"

On Sunday, December 4, 2011 at
11:00am

\$18.00 per adult

\$10.00 children 12 and under

Please call the office to reserve.

Celebrating a *Simcha*?

A birthday, anniversary,
engagement, wedding, new
grandchild, etc.?

Sponsor a Kiddush!

*Please contact the
Bay Ridge Jewish Center Office
so that we may accommodate
you on the Shabbat of your
choice.*

Sisterhood Scoop:

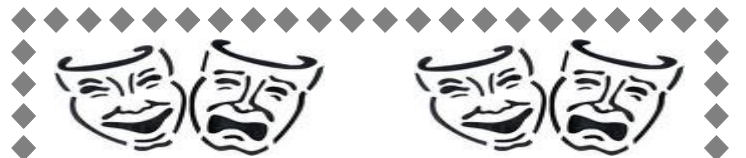
By: Barbara Gershuny

The BRJC is off to a terrific 2011-2012 year. Many new members have joined our congregation and the Hebrew school is, once again, flourishing. Sisterhood, not to be outdone, has already sponsored two successful events.

To celebrate Sukkot, Sisterhood spearheaded a luncheon on Thursday, October 13. Despite the inclement weather, the luncheon was a smashing success. All those in attendance enjoyed a sumptuous repast and wonderful conversation. Both the Sukkah and the ballroom were beautifully decorated for the occasion.

On Wednesday, October 19, Sisterhood organized a fundraising luncheon off-site. Despite dreadful weather, once again, the attendance was amazing. The food was plentiful and very delicious. Since the luncheon took place during the Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur/Sukkot holiday period, participants engaged in a lively discussion of their fondest holiday memories.

Sisterhood is in the process of planning other enjoyable activities. Stay tuned for upcoming events.



Fall Theater Production

Ridge Repertory Company and The Strivelli Players teamed up to present, "A Sixties Kind of Love: A Musical Tale". This original show was directed by Linda Arezzo & James Martinelli. With a cast of over 25 extremely talented people of all ages, singing and dancing in the aisles and the accompaniment of a five piece band, the show was a huge success. A nostalgic return to the 60's with all the familiar hit tunes, brought back memories and so much positive feedback from the audience. No doubt, it was word-of-mouth that packed the house for our hit show! The month of March will bring our next theater production

Ruth Masyr

* **SISTERHOOD CARDS FOR SALE** *
* *Samples can be seen in the Synagogue Office.* *
* **Sisterhood has a variety of cards** *
* **priced at \$10 each.** *
* **Refuah Shelemah (Get Well)** *
* **Memorial Cards / Mazel Tov Cards** *
* **Flower Fund Cards are priced at \$15** *
* **To purchase any of these cards contact** *
* **Belle Aron at: 718 836-2162** *

MEMORIAL PLAQUES

Memorial Plaques are a traditional and dignified way to honor your dear departed. Each plaque bears the name and *Yahrzeit* date of a loved one. The memorial light adjoining the plaque is illuminated on every *Yahrzeit* and for every *Yizkor* service. The plaques are truly a perpetual memorial.

The cost is **\$500.00** per nameplate.

Please call the Temple Office to reserve at

(718) 836-3103.



405 81st Street
Brooklyn, NY 11209
Phone: 718 836-3103
Fax: 718 745-4365
Office@bayridgejewishcenter.org

FLEA MARKET

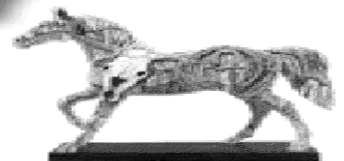
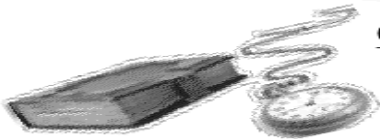
**BAY RIDGE JEWISH CENTER
4TH AVENUE AT 81 STREET**

Sunday, December 11, 2011

9am-4pm

Over 40 vendors will sell

- *new & used items,*
- *collectibles,*
- *jewelry,*
- *crafts,*
- *holiday gifts*
- *and more...*



FREE ADMISSION, refreshments.

718-836-3103 or brjc11209@aol.com