Lincolnwood Jewish Congregation AG Beth Israel Bulletin

עַם יִשְׂרָאֵל חַי







November-December 2026 Issue 6

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Rabbi: Yehuda Meyers

Rabbi Emeritus: Joel Lehrfield, PhD זצ"ל

LJCAGBI Bulletin

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Rabbi Meyers' Message

What Does It Mean to Be a Successful Jew?

We live in a society that places tremendous emphasis on success. From a young age, we are encouraged to set goals, work hard, and strive for excellence. In the professional world, we measure success by income, promotions, and career growth. In academics, success is measured through grades, degrees, and recognition. In sports, by wins and losses, championships, statistics, and records.

But when it comes to our lives as Jews, things aren't so black and white.

We certainly tend to admire those who have achieved what we perceive as significant accomplishments in their Judaism. Individuals who have amassed tremendous Torah knowledge, are meticulous in their observance of mitzvot, give generously to tzedakah, devote themselves to serving the Jewish community, or possess exceptionally refined character. These are all people we naturally respect, look up to, and even aspire to emulate.

However, when we look at how much others have accomplished, and then turn our attention to ourselves, the comparison can be rather disheartening and discouraging.

There is so much Torah we haven't learned. So many mitzvot we could be observing more carefully. So many of our character traits that we need to improve. And despite our best

Rabbi Meyers' Message—continued on page 4

President's Perspective

More than halfway through Marcheshvan, and after a month filled with holidays we have a month with none. That is quite the contrast. Yet in life, we all have days, weeks, months, maybe even years like that. Meetings, events, parties, life-cycle events come with whatever level of excitement, and we pick up afterward, clean up, straighten up, and then keep going. In shul, we have a number of weeks of regular schedules punctuated weekly by Shabbat and with a Rosh Chodesh coming.



But what's this? The clock changed for the winter (can that be the last time?) which means we will resume our community Onagei Shabbatot! Chanukah can't be too far behind that, and then maybe some dates of note on the secular calendar.

This time of year many of our regulars take time away traveling. It is always wonderful seeing whoever is in town at shul. Keep coming, and keep our minyan alive!

Daniel Gutstein
President









Announcements

Mazal Tov

To the Congregation for supporting each other and the Jewish community

Condolences to the family of

Trudy Bilfeld

Arnold Kahn

Refuah Shelema

Bobbie Fink

Yael Groner

Rose Grossinger

Berta Kalman

Ceil Klein

High Holiday Thanks

To our ushers:

Stuart Kalman Paul Kramer
Henry Kalter Jeff Light

To our babysitters:

Sarah Kramer Samantha Miller

To our security partners:

Walsh Security Lincolnwood Police Dept

To our set up staff:

Ryszard Yadviga Nada

To anyone else that I may have omitted

Steve Kramer
Sergeant-at-Arms



Rabbi Meyers' Message—continued from page 1

intentions, we often find ourselves struggling with the same things, day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year. We want to grow, we want to accomplish more, but the distance between where we are and where we would like to be can sometimes feel like an insurmountable mountain.

This reality can often lead us down one of two paths. We either become discouraged, resigning ourselves to the belief that we are indeed failures, or we lower the bar, convincing ourselves that we are perfectly fine just the way we are, without even considering that there might be something we need to change or improve. Yet neither approach leaves us feeling particularly good about ourselves, nor brings us any closer to becoming the people we actually aspire to be.

So if neither approach is particularly effective, how are we supposed to approach our own spiritual growth?

The Gemara in Masechet Shabbat (21b) describes an interesting debate regarding the Mehadrin Min HaMehadrin, the most enhanced manner of lighting the Chanukah candles. Beit Shammai maintains that we should begin with eight candles on the first night and subtract one candle each successive night, lighting just one on the final night. Beit Hillel, however, whose opinion we follow, maintains that we should begin with one candle and increase the number each night. The Gemara explains that Beit Hillel's position is based on the principle of, מעלין בקודש ואין מורידין that we ascend in holiness rather than descend.

Certainly, the notion that we should continually strive to grow in our Yiddishkeit is hardly surprising. But there is something particularly profound about the manner in which we fulfill this mitzvah. On the first night of Chanukah, we light just one little candle. Seven of the eight places on our menorah remain empty. And yet, that single candle represents a complete mitzvah. We have fulfilled our obligation for the evening. We aren't supposed to light the remaining seven candles; tonight, our responsibility is to light just one candle.

And we celebrate it! We gather together with our families, recite the appropriate brachot, sing songs, and rejoice over that one little flame! The following night, we return to our menorahs, add another candle, and do it all over again. More brachot (minus shehechiyanu), more singing, more celebration. We don't wait until the eighth night, when all the candles are lit, to celebrate our accomplishment. We celebrate each and every step along the way.

Perhaps that is precisely the balance we need to find in our own lives. We don't need to commit ourselves today to lighting all eight candles all at once. We need to commit ourselves to lighting the next candle; to recognize and celebrate each accomplishment, however modest it may seem, without losing sight of our aspirations to continue growing.

And as the days of Chanukah progress, those individual candles gradually accumulate. What began with just one little flame eventually becomes a full glowing menorah. The small changes we make in our own lives may seem almost imperceptible at the time. But when we commit to the process, as the days turn into weeks, the weeks into months, and the months into years, we look back and discover that we have reached spiritual heights we could never have imagined possible when we first began.

So what does it mean to be a successful Jew? Not someone who has finally reached a point where there is nothing left to accomplish (that doesn't exist), but someone who continues to grow, appreciating and celebrating each step along the way.

Wishing everyone a wonderful and uplifting Chanukah!



November-December 2026 Calendar of Events

Sunday, November 1	**Daylight Savings Time Ends**
Tuesday, November 10	**Rosh Chodesh Kislev- Day 1**
Wednesday, November 11	**Rosh Chodesh Kislev- Day 2**
Thursday, November 26	**Thanksgiving Day**
Friday, December 4	**Erev Chanukah**
Saturday, December 5 -	
Saturday, December 12	**Chanukah**
Thursday, December 10	**Rosh Chodesh Tevet- Day 1**
Friday, December 11	**Rosh Chodesh Tevet- Day 2**
Sunday, December 20	**Fast of the Tenth of Tevet**

Please note that this bulletin is online at www.ljcagbi.org

To print calendars, flyers or order forms, go to the bulletin page needed, and print the page(s) you would like. Perfect for refrigerator door decor.

Join us in a l'chaim this Shabbat!

*All are welcome to attend the weekly meeting of the **LJCAGBI Kiddush Club** which takes place every Shabbat in the Kiddush room after services.*

New members will be expected to say an extra hardy "Amen" to the Shehakol blessing recited before imbibing

The club Presidium would like to thank the following members for their contributions over the last six months:



Tracey & Uri Dissan	Rachel & Russel Katz	Anna & Myron Moscovitch
Aaron Goldman	Marcia & Paul Kramer	Mitchell Sandler
Ilana & Moshe Goldson	Martha & Rabbi Meyers	Renie & Michael Schreiber
Judy & Gary Goodman	Arlene & Larry Miller	Mel Speisman
Kari & Daniel Gutstein	Sandy Minkus	

*Because this club is not funded by the shul, we ask that attendees consider making a donation to the **Kiddush Club** either by bringing a bottle (Kosher, of course) before Shabbat, sending a check to the office or by making a Zelle payment to officeljc@att.net noted "Kiddush Club".*

Your presence is greatly needed: please attend

Lincolnwood Jewish Congregation A G Beth Israel, our Shul, has always maintained two daily minyanim for Shacharit and for Mincha/Maariv (or just Maariv during the winter months). It continues to be difficult to guarantee that 10 men will be present for davening. **Your help is urgently needed to ensure that a full minyan *is present for everyone, especially those who have Yahrzeit or are in t*heir year of mourning. Please attend whenever you are able.**

Schedule for Services &

NOVEMBER 2026/CHESHVAN- KISLEV 5787						
Sunday	**Monday**	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**	**Shabbat**
1 S: 8:30am M/M: 4:30pm	2 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	3 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	4 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	5 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	6 **S:** 7:00am CL: 4:20pm M/M: 4:25pm	7 **CHAYEI SARAH** S: 9:15am Mincha: 12:30pm AK H: 5:19pm M: 5:50pm
8 S: 8:30am M/M: 4:20pm	9 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	10 **ROSH CHODESH KISLEV-DAY 1** S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	11 **ROSH CHODESH KISLEV-DAY 2** S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	12 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	13 S: 7:00am CL: 4:13pm M/M: 4:15pm	14 **TOLDOT** S: 9:15am Mincha: 12:30pm AK H: 5:12pm M: 5:45pm
15 S: 8:30 am M/M: 4:15pm	16 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	17 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	18 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	19 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	20 S: 7:00am CL: 4:07pm M/M: 4:10pm	20 **VAYEITZE**I S: 9:15am Mincha: 12:30pm AK H: 5:07pm M: 5:40pm
22 S: 8:30am M/M: 4:10pm	23 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	24 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	25 S: 7:00am M:7:40pm	26 S: 8:30am M/M: 4:10pm	27 S: 7:00am CL: 4:03pm M/M: 4:05pm	28 **VAYISHLACH** S: 9:15am Mincha: 12:30pm AK H: 5:03pm M: 5:35pm
29 S: 8:30am M/M: 4:05pm	30 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm					**KEY:** **S - Shacharit** **M - Maariv** **M/M - Mincha/Maariv** **CL - Candle Lighting** **H – Havdalah** **AK- After Kiddush**

Minyan times are subject to change. To confirm minyan time please check the shul website under the worship services tab or call/text Paul Kramer at 312.343.2200.

Please get your articles in for the shul bulletin

If you have a program, announcement or event, please get your information to the Shul *Bulletin* so everyone will know about it! Send your electronic submissions to the editor at: bulletin@ljcagbi.org or submit a hard copy to the Shul office before the deadline, **January-February 2027 issue, Friday, December 25, 2026.** All material is subject to approval by the editor and may be modified for space or content. Inserts must also be approved by the editor before inclusion in the *Bulletin*. Please email bulletin@ljcagbi.org for further details.

Candlelighting Times

DECEMBER 2026/KISLEV 5787 - TEVET 5787						
Sunday	**Monday**	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**	**Shabbat**
		1 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	2 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	3 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	4 **LIGHT THE FIRST CANDLE** **S:** 7:00am CL: 4:01pm M/M: 4:05pm	5 **VAYEISHEV** **CHANUKAH-DAY 1** S: 9:15am Mincha: 12:30pm AK H: 5:01pm M: 5:30pm
6 **CHANUKAH DAY 2** S: 8:30am M/M: 4:05pm	7 **CHANUKAH DAY 3** S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	8 **CHANUKAH DAY 4** S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	9 **CHANUKAH DAY 5** S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	10 **ROSH CHODESH TEVET-DAY 1** **CHANUKAH DAY 6** S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	11 **ROSH CHODESH TEVET-DAY 2** **CHANUKAH DAY 7** S: 7:00am CL: 4:01pm M/M: 4:05pm	12 **MIKEITZ** **CHANUKAH DAY 8** S: 9:15am Mincha: 12:30pm AK H: 5:01pm M: 5:30pm
13 S: 8:30am M/M: 4:05pm	14 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	15 **S:** 7:00am M: 7:40pm	16 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	17 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	18 S: 7:00am CL: 4:03pm M/M: 4:10pm	19 **VAYIGASH** S: 9:15am Mincha: 12:30pm AK H: 5:03pm M: 5:35pm
20 **FAST OF THE TENTH OF TEVET** **Fast begins:** 6:03am S: 8:30am M/M: 4:10pm **Fast ends:** 4:57pm	21 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	22 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	23 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	24 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	25 S: 8:30am CL: 4:06pm M/M: 4:10pm	**26** **VEYECHI** S: 9:15am Mincha: 12;30pm AK H: 5:07pm M: 5:40pm
27 S: 8:30am M/M: 4:10pm	28 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	29 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	30 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	31 S: 7:00 am M: 7:40 pm		**KEY:** **S - Shacharit** **M - Maariv** **M/M - Mincha/Maariv** **CL - Candle Lighting** **H – Havdalah** **AK- After Kiddush**



Emblem of the State of Israel

The Sukkah—Up Down and All Around

Putting up, decorating, maintaining, and taking down our shul's Sukkah takes a community effort. Many volunteers generously gave their time and energy to help make everything ready for Yom Tov.

- **Sukkah Construction:** Dan Gutstein, Larry Brown., Elliot Baker, Michael Schreiber, Gary Goodman, Joshua Zavelovich., Steve Kramer, Aaron Goldman, Henry Kalter, Russel Katz, and Paul Kramer
- **Lights and Decorations:** Yadviga and Ryszard
- **Schach Placement:** Henry Kalter, Uri Dissen, Steve Kramer, Rabbi H. Meyers, and Paul Kramer
- **Schach Fixing:** Stuart Meisel, and Alan Friedman.
- **Sukkah Take-Down:** Steve Kramer, Henry Kalter, Rabbi H. Meyers, Rabbi Y. Meyers, Dov Steinberg, Joshua Zavelovich, Dan Gutstein, and Stuart Meisel

The takeaway: Our Sukkah is a wonderful example of what happens when members, rabbis, and volunteers work together. Every contribution matters, whether it involves construction, decorations, schach, or cleanup. We are grateful to everyone who helped make this mitzvah possible.

Paul Kramer

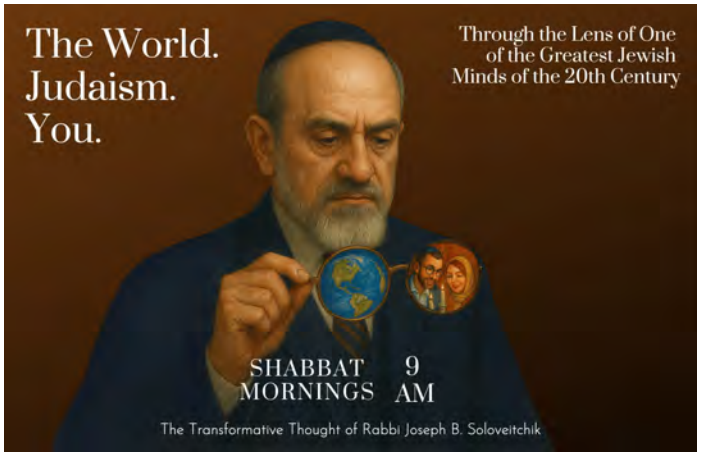












Suggested Methods for Contributing to our Shul:

- ZELLE is the most cost-effective way to make a payment as no fees are applied.
  Use our email address for your payment: officeljc@att.net
- Checks are always acceptable.
- Credit card payments are accepted, however we must pay a processing fee.
- Givebutter payment fees can be paid by you or us, however, please limit those payments to small charges.
- Israel Bonds may be purchased for your payments as a double mitzvah.
  Visit israelbonds.com to view the current interest rates and view valuable information
  Setup an account at: online.israelbonds.com/login
  To donate your bond purchase to LJCAGBI, select “non-profit organization” and enter “Lincolnwood”
- For those over the age of 70, we strongly suggest that you consider using your IRAs as the source of your funds.
  Direct your payments called Qualified Charitable Donations (QCDs) to LJCAGBI with no income tax liability.
  If you make a QCD by December 31, it will also count towards your required minimum distribution for this year.

  Contact your plan administrator and the LJCAGBI office with information regarding your QCD plans.



The Simchat Torah Parade of Honor

Simchat Torah was a joyful celebration with lively hakafot, singing and dancing. The Erev Simchat Torah Dinner was provided by Annie & Michael Kirshner in memory of Annie's mother. The Simchat Torah luncheon completed the celebration. Thanks to Alex Goldstein for taking charge of the luncheon and to Regine & Stuart Meisel, Julie Esguerra and Jadwiga for assisting in setup and cleanup. Special thanks to Arlene Miller & Sylvia Panitch for offering woman's study sessions.

A special thanks to each of the Simchat Torah Fund Sponsors. This fund helps pay for kiddushim throughout the year and gifts to this fund are greatly appreciated. This years sponsors are:

Beverly Alpern
Eliot & Julie Baker
Marc & Eileen Feder
Bobbie Fink
Alex & Leah Goldstein
Jay & Gloria Goldstein
Gary & Judith Goodman
Daniel & Kari Gutstein
Paul & Marcia Kramer
Jeff & Edie Light
Stuart & Regine Meisel
Larry & Arlene Miller
Myron & Anna Moscovitch
Mitchell Sandler
Merle Warshausky
Wini Weisman
David & Marilyn Zeller





Off the Subject

As soon as Izzie got home from work one evening, his wife Beckie came up to him and said, "Izzie, our cleaning lady stole two of our towels. Who would do such a thing?"

"I agree honey," said Izzie, not that interested. "That's wasn't a nice thing to do."

"You're right it wasn't," said Beckie, "They were the best towels we ever had – the two we took from the Hilton Eilat while we were on holiday last Passover."

A lawyer's dog, running around town unleashed, heads for a butcher shop and steals a roast. The butcher goes to the lawyer's office and asks, "If a dog running unleashed steals a piece of meat from my store, do I have a right to demand payment for the meat from the dog's owner?" The lawyer answers, "Absolutely."

"Then you owe me $60.50. Your dog was loose and stole a roast from me today."

The lawyer, without a word, writes the butcher a check for $60.50. The butcher, having a feeling of satisfaction, leaves.

Three days later, the butcher finds a bill from the lawyer: $300 due for a consultation.


GET PUMPED
FOR
CHANUKAH!
Magnificent Menorah
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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND @11:15AM
LINCOLNWOOD JEWISH CONGREGATION AGBI
7117 N. CRAWFORD, LINCOLNWOOD
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Join LJCAGBI on Saturday,
December 5, after Shabbat
Chanukah
Chopped
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5TH EDITION!
For more information or to register to compete, contact the Shul office at 847-676-0491 or go to LJCAGBI.org for info.
3-4 TEAMS WILL COMPETE FOR BRAGGING RIGHTS IN CONQUERING A SPECIAL HOLIDAY-THEMED BASKET.
CHEER FOR YOUR FAVORITE TEAM AS THEY CREATE NEW RECIPES OR THROW YOUR HAT IN THE RING TO FRY YOUR WAY TO THE TOP OF THE PACK!
TRIVIA AND GAMES FOR THE AUDIENCE..
ADMISSION: $10
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

A Little Something Cheesy for Chanukah!

Three-Cheese Boureka Spirals with Everything Bagel Seasoning

Latkes and sufganiyot may get all the Chanukah publicity, but let's not forget that cheese has a starring role in the holiday, too!

The tradition of eating dairy foods on Chanukah is associated with the story of Yehudis, who famously served an enemy general salty cheese to make him thirsty, followed by plenty of wine. Once he fell asleep, she seized the opportunity to save her people. Talk about a woman who knew how to put together a cheese course!

In honor of Yehudis, we're giving cheese its moment in the spotlight with these golden, flaky boureka spirals. They're stuffed with three delicious cheeses, fresh herbs, and just enough seasoning to make them irresistible. A sprinkle of everything bagel seasoning adds a decidedly modern twist.

Best of all? Store-bought puff pastry does most of the heavy lifting. Because even on Chanukah, we could all use a little miracle in the kitchen!



Ingredients: (makes approximately 20–24 individual spirals)

- 2 sheets kosher puff pastry, thawed but kept cold
- ¾ cup whole-milk ricotta cheese
- ½ cup crumbled feta cheese
- ¾ cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh dill
- 2 scallions, finely chopped
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- Zest of ½ lemon (optional)
- 1 additional egg, beaten, for egg wash
- 2–3 tablespoons everything bagel seasoning

Instructions:

Make the filling. In a medium bowl, combine the ricotta, feta, mozzarella, one beaten egg, dill, scallions, garlic powder, pepper, and optional lemon zest. Mix until well combined. Refrigerate while preparing the pastry.

Prepare the pastry. On a lightly floured surface, unfold one sheet of puff pastry. Roll gently into a rectangle approximately 10 × 12 inches. Cut lengthwise into 5–6 long strips.

Fill and roll. Spoon a narrow line of cheese filling down the center of each strip, leaving a small border. Fold the long edges over the filling and pinch firmly to seal, creating a long, filled pastry rope. Avoid overfilling.

Make the spirals. With the seam facing down, gently coil each filled rope into a loose spiral, tucking the end underneath. Place on a parchment-lined baking sheet, leaving space between spirals. Repeat with the remaining pastry and filling.

Chill. Refrigerate the assembled spirals for 20–30 minutes. This helps the pastry maintain its shape and puff beautifully.

Finish and bake. Preheat oven to 400°F. Brush the spirals with beaten egg and sprinkle generously with everything bagel seasoning. Bake for 25–30 minutes, or until deeply golden, puffed, and cooked through.

Serve. Allow to cool for 5–10 minutes before serving. Delicious warm or at room temperature.

Kari's Korner Tips

Make ahead: Assemble the spirals and freeze unbaked on a parchment-lined tray. Once frozen, transfer to a freezer bag. Bake directly from frozen at 400°F, adding approximately 5–10 minutes to the baking time.

Switch it up: Substitute chopped sautéed spinach (squeezed very dry) for the scallions, or add a pinch of crushed red pepper flakes for a little kick.

Serving suggestion: Pair with a simple tomato dipping sauce, Israeli salad, or a lemony Greek yogurt dip.

Wishing you and your families a Chanukah filled with light, laughter, and something delicious on the table!