



I Need a Hero *from Beata Abraham*



Dust off your favorite Menorahs and get those potatoes grated. It's time to revisit the story of Judah Maccabee, our favorite hammer-wielding hero who refused to let the flame of Jewish faith go out. He's the stuff that legends are made of: our very own strong, fearless,

and unbending HERO. It also helps that every image of him includes a full set of burly muscles. What's not to love?

But behind every hero is a human being, and behind every glorious victory is a complicated and often harrowing story. Was Judah Maccabee the shining model of faith and courage we imagine? Or did he allow his zealotry to take him down the fiery, uncompromising path that made him too willing to draw his sword in the name of God?

It's complicated. As the Book of the Maccabees tells it, Judah was both a man of vast passion and of fierce faith. There is a lot to learn about the light and the shadow of zeal.

Judah the Lion-Hearted. The text in 1 Maccabees 3:3–4 paints a vivid picture: *"He extended the glory of his people; he put on his breastplate like a giant and girded his war armor. He waged battles, protecting the camp by his sword."*

Judah was not born into power or privilege. He was the son of Mattityahu, a priest who refused to bow to Hellenistic decrees banning Jewish practice. When Mattityahu died, Judah picked up both his mantle and his sword. Against overwhelming odds, Judah led a small band of fighters (in fact the very first guerrilla army

in Jewish history) to victory over the mighty Seleucid Empire.

The victories were astonishing. The battles he won restored a people's sense of purpose. 1 Maccabees 4:36 tells of his rallying cry after reclaiming the Temple: *"Behold, our enemies are defeated. Let us go up to cleanse and rededicate the sanctuary."*

But Judah wasn't only fighting against oppression. He was fighting for renewal, dignity, and divine connection. His leadership provided Jews not only physical freedom but spiritual light, a light that became the miracle of Hanukkah itself.

The Zeal of Judah. Of course, zeal, as our tradition knows well, can burn as fiercely hot as it can illuminate brightly. The word "zeal" (*kin'ah*) in Torah is not neutral. Pinchas, the biblical zealot, is praised for his passion but also used as cautionary tale, because passion unchecked can also lead to destruction.

Judah's zeal was audacious and bold. 2 Maccabees 8:1–2 describes how he *"secretly entered the villages, summoned his kinsmen, and called upon those who remained faithful to the religion of their fathers."* His call was clear: If you're with us, take up arms; if not, step aside, we will handle this ourselves.

His was not a movement based on moderation. Judah's revolt was based on the highest of stakes – the conviction that any acceptance of Greek culture meant the death of Judaism itself. The Hellenists (Jews who adopted Greek customs) were not just misguided or weak; they were, in Judah's eyes, treacherous traitors to God, and even more despicable than the Greeks themselves.

Zealotry: The Jewish Double-Edged Sword. The Jewish people have an ambivalent

'[P]assion unchecked can also lead to destruction.'

(continued on page 3)

Join CBINT for Our Annual

HANUKKAH CELEBRATION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18 5:30 PM

Brisket! - Latkes! - Candle Lighting! - Kids' Choir!

Join us for a candle lighting, welcoming new members,
children's activities, and a festive Hanukkah dinner.

Adults: **\$25 each**

Youth (4-12 years): **\$12 each**

Children (3 and under): **FREE**

Household Maximum: **\$70**

CBINT Hanukkah Dinner 2025

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Adults _____ Youth 3-11 _____ Children 0-2 _____

OR Family Maximum Cost _____

Total Brisket Meals _____ Total Vegetarian Meals _____

Food Allergies _____

We will try our best to accomodate food allergies.

Reservations & pre-payment are due Friday, December 12, 2025.

Return this form with your check, call the office, or register online.

Total amount enclosed _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

(We cannot invoice your synagogue account)

Questions? Contact 414-352-7310
or aimeek@cbintmilwaukee.org



I Need a Hero from Beata Abraham (continued)

relationship with zealotry. The Talmud (Sanhedrin 82a) debates whether Pinchas, who killed Zimri for consorting with a Midianite woman, acted righteously or recklessly. There is an argument for both sides. Zealotry, the rabbis teach, is permitted only when it is utterly pure in motive and, even then, it is dangerous.

Judah's zeal won freedom, but at what cost? After his death, the Hasmonean dynasty (descendants of the Maccabees) would become corrupt, politically entangled, and even oppressive. What began as a fight for religious freedom, in less than a century, would lead to internal conflict and even civil war.

We can't really blame Judah for what came later of his movement, but his story is an important reminder that zeal, if left untempered, can sow the seeds of its own undoing.

Judah the Visionary. Still, to label Judah merely as a zealot would be deeply unfair. He was not motivated by ego or conquest. His courage came from deep, uncompromising faith, not blind fanaticism.

Judah says to his vastly outnumbered troops (1 Maccabees 3:18–19): *"It is easy for many to be overcome by a few; in the sight of Heaven there is no difference between saving by many or by few. Victory in battle does not depend on the size of the army, but on the strength that comes from Heaven."*

These are not the words of a zealot drunk on power. These are the words of a man who trusts in the moral and spiritual strength of his cause. Judah's battle was not just for victory, but for conviction and unwavering faith in God.

He fought to make it possible for Jews to live as Jews; to study and keep the Torah, to light candles, to bring their blessing to the world. His war was intended to be an act of restoration, not destruction.

The Human Hammer. Judah lived in a time when compromise meant assimilation, and where holding strong could mean death. Judah's flaw was his uncompromising nature, but it was also his greatest virtue. Without it, the Jewish story might have ended in the second century BCE. Because of Judah, the light of Hanukkah still burns today.

As modern-day keepers of the flame, we tend the light that Judah lit against assimilation not with war, but with bold observance and in deeds, words, and community. Instead of the zeal for battle, our zeal is for moral courage, compassion, and Jewish values.

Perhaps the real miracle of Hanukkah is not just that the oil lasted eight days, but that we have managed to keep it burning (even if more gently) in our hands even today.

CBINT Youth Scholarship Application 2026

Submission Deadline: Monday, January 26, 2026

Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid is fortunate to have several endowment funds that were established to provide scholarships to children and young adults, up to age 26, of our current members in good standing.

Scholarships are available for CBINT youth to assist them in furthering their Jewish education. Activities include students attending Jewish overnight camps, USY programs, Jewish high school in Israel, organized Jewish educational tours in Israel, and Jewish advanced college studies in Israel. Preference is given to individuals who participate in programs sponsored by the Conservative Movement and/or who have a true financial need. These endowments do *not* fund day camp or non-Jewish education-based programs.

Contact the CBINT office, 414-352-7310, or Aimee, aimeek@cbintmilwaukee.org, with any questions you may have. **Applications must be submitted online through the link on the CBINT website (home page > "Learn" link > Camp Scholarships).**

L'hayim! iWepa! A Joy-Filled Experience *from Hazzan Stein*

Thank you to everyone who made our November fall concert – Latkes Con Salsa Meets Ta'am Latino Live! – a success!!! The concert was a partnership with many community organizations to celebrate Jewish and Latino musical heritage.

It was such a joy sharing music with all of you while building community and raising funds for our congregation. Gastón, Mitchell, and the whole band had a blast performing and were very touched by the warm reception from all of you. I look forward to sharing more music with you in the future.

First photo courtesy Marcela Gómez; others courtesy Patrick Young.

Hazzan Stein



Sisterhood News: Supporting Members Together

Our Women's Voice event/speaker was well attended and received. We came away with more ideas for our phone call project listed below. Thanks to Rachel Muchin Young for arranging the speaker!

Sisterhood has been talking about a way to support synagogue members as needed, such as the phone calls made during the Covid shutdown when volunteers checked in with members. We might focus on people who live alone or people we have heard need support. It was suggested that we could go beyond a phone call and invite people out or to our homes for dinner etc... Interested in helping develop this idea? Let us know :)

I have started collecting orders for the 2026 National League Mah Jongg card and can accept them through January 30 but not after.

We invite all CBINT members to tour the Milwaukee Jewish Museum's Violins of Hope exhibit with us on December 28. RSVP to Anita Bensman abensman@sbcglobal.net or 414-218-9388 before December 21 so we have enough docents.

We believe that we can be a stronger source of support to our *kehillah* through cooperation and coordination with other organizations within our synagogue. Leadership members of the Men's Club, Sisterhood and Social Action Committee have been meeting to see how we can support each other's projects and events and create new ones together. Please let us know if you can help with these possible upcoming events/projects:

A Poker Run: Participants will get into their cars with family and/or friends and discover new places in our area while collecting playing cards. At the end the cards collected will be used to create poker hands; the best hands will earn prizes.

A dinner created by our members to feed the needy and ourselves followed by a social activity.

Our next **Presidium** meeting is at CBINT Sunday, **December 21, at 1 p.m.** We will decorate Hanukkah cookies for fun at the meeting! Please attend as we need your input and support.



If It's December, It's Dreidel Time (at the GLASS BOX)! We Have A LOT of Dreidels!

It's also a great time for Menorahs!

And we have a HUGE supply – including electric Menorahs!

And all other Hanukkah supplies (candles, latke plates, wrapping paper & more!)

Check out the **Glass Box** for all of your Hanukkah needs!

25% OFF all Hanukkah items for December!

Hours: Tues. - Fri. 10am-12pm
or call Ellen Goldstein,
414-861-6734



Please consider ordering your 2026 National Mah Jongg League card from Anita Bensman. **Proceeds benefit our own Sisterhood.**


Regular Cards: \$14 | Large Cards: \$15

Please send your order & check made out to CBINT Sisterhood to:

Anita Bensman, 5798 N. River Forest Dr., Milwaukee, WI 53209



All CBINT members (yes, all) are invited to join your Sisterhood for



Violins of Hope

Strings of Jewish Resistance and Resilience
November 5, 2025 – January 25, 2026

JMM
JEWISH MUSEUM
MILWAUKEE
PRESENTS

CURATED IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH

A PROGRAM OF THE MILWAUKEE JEWISH FEDERATION
HERC
HOLOCAUST EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER

MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

Violins of Hope
Wisconsin
Presented by
Milwaukee Youth
Symphony Orchestra (MYSO)

at Jewish Museum Milwaukee
1360 N Prospect Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53202
December 28th at 1:00pm \$7 admission

RSVP before December 21 so we can have enough docents.
Let us know if you need a ride or can offer one.

Anita Bensman

abensman@sbcglobal.net

414-218-9388

Marge's Mitzvah Knitters - Knitting With a Purpose

Knitting (and crocheting) for the winter season is underway!

December 7

10 to 11:30 a.m.

If you are no longer knitting, feel free to bring your leftover yarn to the **Yarn Barn** in the front entryway!



Book Club Meets December 15

The book Discussion Group meets on Monday, December 15, 1 p.m. in CBINT's Promenade to discuss "Dinners with Ruth" by Nina Totenberg; Judy Zaks leads the discussion.

All are welcome.

JIMMY CARTER DID IT. GIANNIS ANTETOKOUNMPO DID IT. NOW YOU CAN TOO!

CBINT IS TEAMING UP WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



WHAT: COME AND LEARN ABOUT HABITAT FROM OUR GUEST SPEAKER

WHEN: SUNDAY DECEMBER 14, 2025, 10:00 AM

WHERE: CBINT 6880 N. GREEN BAY AVE

Not Handy with a Hammer? No Problem! There are plenty of ways to help.

RSVP at CBINTMILWAUKEE.ORG

RSVPs encouraged but not required.

Brought to you by your Social Action Committee

CBINT Sisterhood's 2025 Hanukkah Cookie Sale

The CBINT Sisterhood baking crew will be baking and selling Hanukkah cookies
You can order sugar cookies with sprinkles, frosted sugar cookies or a mixture.

A few pre-packaged boxes
will be **available** at the Glass Box gift shop while they last

The cost is only: \$8 per dozen

NEW!! Pre ordered Hanukah cookies will be available for pick up on the following days
and times:

Sunday, December 7 from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm

Monday, December 8 from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 10 from 9:30 am until 1:00 pm
or by appointment.

Call Anita Bensman at 414-368-3166 with questions.

Payment is expected when you pick up your order.

Please make checks payable to CBINT Sisterhood.

To place an order, send the attached form to: Anita Bensman
5798 N River Forest Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53209

OR contact Anita at abensman@sbcglobal.net or 414-368-3166

Thank you for your support,
CBINT Sisterhood Bakers

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email address (optional): _____

#_____ box(es) Sugar with sprinkles

#_____ box(es) Frosted Sugar

#_____ box(es) mixed

#_____ total boxes of 12 cookies @ \$8.00

Total \$ enclosed: _____





COMMUNITY GAP CAMP WINTER EDITION

Earlycare
available
8am - 9am

December 22 - 26

Aftercare
available
3pm - 5pm

**CBINT
Members**
\$62/day*

9am - 3pm

For ages 3
(potty trained)
to 10 years old

**Non-
Members**
\$67/day*



**MJDS
Families**
\$65/day*



Registration deadline is November 21

For more information, contact Talia: programs@cbintmilwaukee.org

Contributions

*In Honor of Barbara & Al Simon's
65th Wedding Anniversary*
Social Action Fund

Suzy Willcoxon

Merry Atinsky Kiddush Fund

Barbara Neville

Prayer Book

Dee & Ken Stein

In Honor of Barbara & Al Simon
Social Action Fund

Ken & Dee Stein

In Honor of Ed Blumberg
Social Action Fund

Ken & Dee Stein

*In Honor of Mark & Linda
Freedman*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sam Denny

In Honor of Hazzan Stein
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sam Denny

In Honor of Rabbi Alter
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sam Denny

*In Honor of Michael
& Debbie Mazius*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sam Denny

In Honor of Don & Caren Bass
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sam Denny

*In Honor of Allan &
Sue Carneol*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sam Denny

In Honor of Rick & Sue Strait
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sam Denny

*In Honor of Lani Denny
& Noah Rotter*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sam Denny

In Honor of Mike Askotzky
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sam Denny

In Honor of Kevin Nashban
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sam Denny

*In Honor and Appreciation of
Eugene and Marilee Bass*

Shirley Bass Floral Fund

Dan & Susan Sellman

In Honor of Judy Wolkenstein
Merry Atinsky Kiddush Fund

Bobbie Fishman

R'fuah Shlema to Deanna Spanjar
Social Action Fund

Edith Pump

*In Memory of Marlene Loeb's
Brother – Bernard Litvan*
Merry Atinsky Kiddush Fund

Mark & Arlene Litow

Sallie Loeb Grange

Barbara Neville

Beth Peterman

Hazzan's Discretionary Fund

Toby & Mark Lukoff

In Memory of Janice Meyer
Merry Atinsky Kiddush Fund

Mark & Arlene Litow

Amy Lovell

Lynne Shumow

Jean & Phil Kolmas

Beth Peterman

General Fund

Mark & Anita Nagurka

Danny Vesokie

In Memory of Millie Ruff
Jacobson Chapel Fund

Bob & Joan Klein

In Memory of Ken Tragash
General Fund

Bobbie Fishman

Ann Lederman

In Memory of Marsha Edelman
Hazzan's Discretionary Fund

Mark & Arlene Litow

In Memory of Beverly Kaiman
Social Action

Barbara & Al Simon



Please Find Yahrzeits for December at
cbintmilwaukee.org/yahrzeits



**We Celebrate December's
Member Birthdays!**



Please find the complete list of this month's birthdays on our website:

CBINTMilwaukee.org/celebrate/birthdays



CBINT Funds

Alan & Rita Marcuvitz Education Endowment Fund – Funds to be used for adult, youth, and family education.

Balkansky Fund – Provides scholarships for Camp Ramah.

Beth Hearst Fund (Formerly Passport to Israel) – Provides funds for current youth and educational programs.

Carl S. and Sandra G. Zetley Generation to Generation Fund – Provides funds for education and family programming.

CBINT/Religious School Fund – Underwrites tuition for children of members attending the CBINT School of Religious Studies.

Ervin & Suzann Colton Education Endowment Fund – Provides funds for Scholars in Residence and other speakers.

Gemilut Hasadim – Provides funds for Shabbat meals for CBINT families with newborns or families in mourning.

General Fund – Provides funds to maintain CBINT.

Harold M. Kramer Beautification Fund – Provides funds for beautification projects at CBINT.

Hazzan's Discretionary Fund – Fund established for charitable causes.

Isadore & Sylvia Blankstein Library Fund – Provides funds for CBINT library acquisitions.

Jacobson Chapel Fund – Provides funds for the maintenance of Jacobson Chapel.

Kenneth Weber Choir Fund – Fund dedicated to supporting the choir and other musical programs.

Marilyn Zetley Children's Library Fund – Provides funds for the children's section of the library (books, furniture, etc.)

Merry Atinsky Kiddish Fund – Helps CBINT Sisterhood provide kiddish lunches after Shabbat services

Panitch CBI Family Education Fund – Assists CBINT families with financial needs who wish to attend family education retreats.

Pentateuh/Humash Fund – Provides funds to purchase Pentateuh/Humashim. Books will have a dedication bookplate.

Prayer Book Fund – Provides funds to purchase prayer books/siddurim. Books will have a dedication bookplate.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund – Fund established for charitable causes.

Rabbi Panitch Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund – Provides scholarships for Camp Ramah.

Sam & Aidee Cooper Art Fund – Provides funds to purchase art for CBINT.

School Fund – Provides funds for the school and special school projects.

Senior Activities Fund – Provides funds for social, spiritual and educational opportunities for mature adults.

Shirley Bass Floral Fund – Provides bima flowers for the holidays.

Sol & Esther Blankstein Scholarship Fund – Assists high school/college students to pursue Jewish Education.

Soloman & Yetta Soloff Memorial Adult Education Fund – Established in the memory of Dr. Soloman & Yetta Soloff. Promotes and supports Adult Education programs.

Special Scholarship Endowment Fund – Provides scholarships for Jewish education.

Stein Mendelson Scholarship Fund – Provides funds for a Camp Ramah scholarship for one student per summer.

The Schuster Family Endowment Fund for Second Home Cemetery

William & June Sherkow Scholarship Fund – Provides funds for charitable, educational, or religious purposes.

Youth Scholarship Endowment Fund (YSEF) (Formerly Youth Education Endowment Fund) – Provides scholarships for trips to Israel, Jewish overnight camp and advanced Jewish education.

Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid
Marvin & Marilyn Zetley
Family Campus
6880 N. Green Bay Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53209-2821
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Milwaukee, WI
Permit No. 3426

CBINT Office Information

Joel Alter.....Rabbi
Jeremy Stein.....Hazzan
Herbert G. Panitch.....Rabbi Emeritus
Beata Abraham.....Executive Director / Director of
Congregational Learning and Education
Anita Nagurka.....Business Manager
Pnina Goldfarb.....President
Aimee Kahn.....Executive Assistant
Armona Nadler-Strick.....Sisterhood Presidium
Anita Bensman.....Sisterhood Presidium
Bill Fink.....Men's Club President
Michael Johnson.....Facilities Management
Dennis Kahn.....Second Home
Cemetery Administrator
Charlie Kagan.....Kitchen Manager

Phone: 414-352-7310

Fax: 414-352-2050

Office Hours: Monday – Friday: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

www.CBINTMilwaukee.org

Please call to confirm office operation hours.

Worship & Service Information

Weekday Services:

7:30 am and 6:00 pm

Sunday and Civic Holidays:

9:00 am and 6:00 pm

Shabbat:

9:30 am

Please advise Rabbi Alter or Hazzan Stein if needed to help recruit attendees for a yahrzeit minyan.