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# Congregation B'nai Israel Newsletter

THE MISSION OF THE B'NAI ISRAEL, AS A GROWING NURTURING INCLUSIVE CONGREGATION,  
IS TO SERVE THE SPIRITUAL, CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL & SOCIAL NEEDS OF OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY

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December, 2012



Kislev - Tevet 5773

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## Reflections

By Rabbi David White

### What Candles Do You Light?

"The human spirit is the light of God" (Proverbs 20:27). These words inspire an insight shared in the Rabbinic Assembly Rabbi's Manual: *Within each of us God implants a divine spark. Each of us has the obligation to tend this spark and fan it into a flame that will light up one's own life and the lives of others.*

*A lit candle can be snuffed out, or it can burn out, or it can kindle other candles. When the flame is passed on to others, the flame will continue to burn long after the original candle has been extinguished.*

The lights of Chanukah celebrate stories of the ages, events of which movies are (and no date will be) made. It's a surprising holiday in that its popularity has little connection with its importance. The fun, song-filled, gift-sharing, food-filling, game playing, highly decorated holiday we enjoy so much invites us to warm ourselves in the cold of winter amidst the other Festivals of Light, particularly Christmas.

Possibly overlooked in such cocooning is Chanukah's light of continuity, of the miracle of withstanding overwhelming conditions of voluntary and enforced assimilation. Possibly overlooked is the political nature of Chanukah and sensibilities on the part of the rabbis that shaped the holiday to reduce controversy and maximize return to God and awe of the wonders and miracles that happen both on grand scales and more commonly and significantly, in the course of daily life. Possibly overlooked is the irony that Chanukah's message is to honor the Maccabees' victory over the Greeks and those Jews at the time that had left the fold for the fun and games of the gymnasium and other Greek advancements in civilization. The lesson of Chanukah is to grow in your own strengths and gifts in learning to listen more openly and less judgmentally to someone else's truth or point of view.

Possibly overlooked is that Chanukah is the holiday that made it possible that there would someday be Christmas. Had the Maccabees lost, who knows whether Judaism would have survived? While the candles we light commemorate a miracle of oil that burned long enough until more could be prepared, the candles that we light celebrate that and much more...and they are a replacement for a different kind of celebration that the rabbis of old quashed: the parade through the streets trumpeting the victory of the small over the mighty, of retaining one's unique identity in a

world where pressure grows to become something/someone else so you can fit in.

Whether you are at the Benicia candle lighting now held in memory of Meghan Campbell, an example of a candle that continues to burn in all the ways Meghan touched lives in the time she had, or in any other settings for the eight nights of Chanukah, with each candle lit, remind yourself that "the Human Spirit is the Light of God"...and ponder how you can and will share more of your light...keeping alive values you cherish, and, Jewishly, customs that have touched you.



### Monthly Schedule of Services

*Please be sure to attend – we're looking forward to seeing you there!*

- Saturday, Dec. 1 ..... Services at 10:00 am  
Led by Congregants
- Friday, Dec. 7 ..... Services at 8:00 pm  
Led by Rabbi White
- Saturday, Dec. 8 ..... Services at 10:00 am  
Led by Rabbi White
- Friday, Dec. 14 ..... Shabbat Seder at 7:00 pm  
Led by Rabbi White
- Saturday, Dec. 15 ..... Services at 10:00 am  
Led by Congregants
- Friday, Dec. 21 ..... Services at 8:00 pm  
Led by Rabbi White
- Saturday, Dec. 22 ..... Services at 10:00 am  
Led by Rabbi White
- Friday, Dec. 28 ..... Children's Service at 7:00 pm  
General Services at 8:00 pm  
Led by Congregants



*Congregation B'nai Israel Newsletter*

*Published monthly by:*

*Congregation B'nai Israel*

*1256 Nebraska Street, Vallejo, CA 94590*

*Issue No. 12-12*

## Oneg & Kiddush Sponsors for December

- Saturday, Dec. 1 ..... Kiddush sponsored by attendees
- Friday, Dec. 7 ..... Oneg sponsored by attendees
- Saturday, Dec. 8 ..... Kiddush sponsored by attendees
- Friday, Dec. 14 ..... Shabbat Seder co-sponsored by Hadassah and The Shabbat Seder Committee and attendees
- Saturday, Dec. 15 ..... Kiddush sponsored by attendees
- Friday, Dec. 21 ..... Oneg sponsored by Shari Salomon in honor of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Allen's Yahrzeit
- Saturday, Dec. 22 ..... Kiddush sponsored by attendees
- Friday, Dec. 28 ..... Oneg sponsored by attendees



## DECEMBER ONEG & KIDDUSH SPONSORS

We have 6 opportunities for B'nai Israel members to sponsor an oneg or Kiddush in December!

There are 2 Friday onegs and 4 Saturday kiddush open. There are 2 Friday oneg and 4 kiddush open. The Friday dates are December 7th and 28th. The Saturday dates are December 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd.

Please provide something savory and/or sweet for the community to enjoy after services. Plate your treats and put them on the long tables set up in the Social Hall prior to services. Wine/juice, challah, coffee & tea are supplied by the B'nai Israel kitchen. Contact Sue at [cbioffice1@yahoo.com](mailto:cbioffice1@yahoo.com) or 707-642-6526 to confirm your preferred date!



## Small electronics Recycling Program

I am very pleased to announce a new and additional small electronics recycling program at CBI! We are now accepting the following:

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Ink jet cartridges | Laser Toner Cartridges |
| Digital Cameras    | Cellular Phones        |
| Laptop Computers   | iPods                  |
| MP3 players        |                        |

The proceeds will benefit our Religious School. We will receive anywhere from \$0.25 to \$20.00 per item with most items in the \$2.50 range.

Reprocessing one empty laser toner cartridge averts 2.5 pounds of solid waste out of landfills. Recycling one printer cartridge prevents natural resources, such as oil, from being used to produce a new one. Remanufacturing one cell phone stops 220 pounds of waste from being generated.

Please look for our new recycling display and collection box, due to arrive in April! This new program will help us all get green, reduce solid waste, recycle and raise money for our Religious School!



## December Birthdays

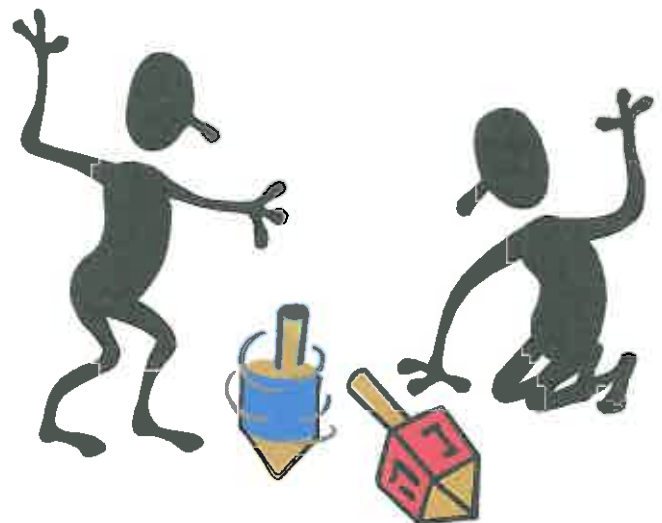


Harry Policar .....	1
Nieves Vargas .....	1
Jacqueline Silva.....	4
Sheryl Meade .....	5
Jackie Pruitt.....	7
Laurel Roberts.....	8
Matt Mercado.....	9
Noah Silver .....	9
Ralph Pierce .....	10
Matt Zola.....	11
Alan Goodban.....	12
Larry Miller.....	16
Becky Stevenson.....	17
Alan Schwartz.....	22
Dr. Barbara Bachmeier.....	23
Stephen Scharf.....	23
Melissa Edwards .....	23
Steven Pierce .....	24
Helen Gray.....	25
David Noonan.....	25
Theresa Gallagher.....	26
David Lyons.....	27
Brian Silver .....	30

## ♥ December Anniversaries ♥

Donna & Joseph Rubin .....	11
Charlie & Evette Wiese .....	14
Nadine & Alan Goodban .....	29

*Remember a loved one with a donation "in honorarium" or "in memoriam" to the Congregation or Sisterhood. The minimum donation is \$5.00 and acknowledgments are sent to the recipient and the donor. Please call Gail Lamkins at 707-425-5866 for further details.*



## DECEMBER YARTZEITEN

### December 1 - 15, 2012

17 Kislev .....	Bluma Yossem
18 Kislev .....	Clara Abouaf
19 Kislev .....	Dorothy Sills
19 Kislev .....	Mortimer Breakstone
20 Kislev .....	Jacqueline Keys
21 Kislev .....	Marvin Scheer
21 Kislev .....	Adele Toch
22 Kislev .....	Anna Solomon
22 Kislev .....	Rebecca Policar
23 Kislev .....	Gladys Williges
23 Kislev .....	Jacob Elgrably
23 Kislev .....	Elizabeth Solomon
24 Kislev .....	Mikaaail Boris Levitsky
24 Kislev .....	Sonjia Chait
25 Kislev .....	Isaac Cohen
25 Kislev .....	Leona Andrews
27 Kislev .....	Al Ross
28 Kislev .....	Dr. Herman Henry
28 Kislev .....	William Williges
28 Kislev .....	Benjamin Arony
28 Kislev .....	Jacob Rosoff
28 Kislev .....	Rebecca Shapiro
29 Kislev .....	Sam Shapiro
1 Tevet.....	Herbert Cohn
1 Tevet.....	Bernice Dawson

### December 16 - 31, 2012

4 Tevet.....	Charles Feldman
5 Tevet.....	Michael Povitsky
8 Tevet.....	Jack Moss
9 Tevet.....	Raymond Pizante
10 Tevet.....	Glenn Dunbar
10 Tevet.....	Isadore Meyer
11 Tevet.....	Gerry Edell
11 Tevet.....	Joseph Vineberg
11 Tevet.....	Robert Leo Cohen
12 Tevet.....	Celia Edelman
12 Tevet.....	Regina Gray
14 Tevet.....	Martin Binstock
14 Tevet.....	Jack Abouaf
15 Tevet.....	Jennie Adler
16 Tevet.....	Ilene Edelman
18 Tevet.....	Kate Kirschner
18 Tevet.....	Herman Yosem



### Cemetery Plots

We still have a few cemetery plots at Sunrise Memorial in Vallejo. The cost is \$2,500 for members and \$3,000 for non-members. For more information, contact the synagogue office at 707-642-6526, Jan Leventhal at 707-747-1810 or Carolyn Steinberg at 925-229-8090.



## WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

Thanks to all who attended our Jewish Film Afternoon. It was wonderful to share soup on a chilly afternoon and watch a good movie. As always, the delightful cuisine of Helene was apparent. Additionally, we had delicious dishes from Fern, Wendy, Jennifer and Lyn. A huge thanks to all of you for always helping make our events so successful.

In December, we'll be gift wrapping at Barnes & Noble located at 1600 Gateway Boulevard in Fairfield. Stop by and visit our "wrappers", perhaps make a donation or buy a gift for someone (including yourself) and we'll wrap it! We'll be there on Monday, December 10 through Thursday, December 13 throughout the day and/or evening. It's a spirited event!

On Sunday, January 27, 2013 (already!), board our bus bound for the hills! Our next fundraiser will be a Casino Trip to Thunder Valley Casino. There will be two stops, one in Vallejo and one in Fairfield. Coffee and muffins will be served. We'll also be having a 50/50 bingo game and some brain teasing games. A flyer is enclosed for more specific information. It should be fun, plus we're trying something new!

The next meeting of the Ways & Means Committee is Sunday, December 16 at 10:30 am in the CBI Library. Hope to see you soon!

Gail Lamkins, Chair



## SISTERHOOD NEWS

Sisterhood is an auxiliary organization to the synagogue dedicated to the support of the synagogue, especially financially. The women of Sisterhood donate everything earned to the synagogue's needs. The Sisterhood gift shop is open the first Sunday of every month, holidays and can be opened by prearrangement at other times by contacting Joyce Georgetti, Carolyn Steinberg or Jennifer Mercado.



### Adult Studies with Rabbi White

On Sunday, December 16, at 10:45 am until noon, Rabbi White will continue his monthly program of Sunday studies and conversation. The theme this year is translating spiritual values found in core prayers into everyday application and practical strategies for living. Each session Rabbi White will take us through a close examination of familiar prayers in exploring how the language uncovers core Judaic values good for application in everyday life. Sessions are designed to be participatory as people bring their own life stories and experiences to bear on how we bring an ancient prayer alive as a modern and practical way of making each day better and bringing more balance into our lives. Upcoming session: January 27.





## **CHANUKAH BOUTIQUE**

**Sunday, December 2, 2012**

**10:30 am to 1:30 pm**

**Fundraiser to Benefit B'nai Israel Religious School**

**Art  
Jewelry  
Food  
Gift Items**

**Pixie Emporium for Children**

**Sisterhood Giftshop Open**





# **Meghan Campbell Memorial Menorah Lighting**

**Please join us on Sunday, December 9th  
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm**

**Dona Benicia Room , Benicia Public Library  
150 East L Street, Benicia,**

**We will come together to light the  
Menorah, sing Chanukah songs,  
learn to play Dreidel**

**and share the brightness of this holiday  
and each other's company!**

**Call 483-9551 for more information**

**Donations to continue this annual event  
gratefully accepted**

# Congregation B'nai Israel

December 14th @ 7:00 p.m.

Our Shabbat Seder  
with Rabbi David White

Join around the tables  
for a "family-style"  
welcoming of Shabbat!



A Potluck Dinner co-sponsored by  
Hadassah and the B'nai Israel Shabbat  
Seder Committee, featuring Latkes with  
Applesauce & Sour Cream!



Please bring a  
Dairy or Pareve  
Side/Salad and  
Dessert to share!

RSVP to Wendy, Fern, Lois, Alisa or Sue



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***Bulletin Staff***

Editor

Heather Campbell  
135 Brandon Place  
Benicia, CA 94510  
Email: HeatherCam@aol.com  
Phone: 707-745-5352

Copying, Collating & Mailing  
Sue Barush

\* If you had difficulties receiving your  
bulletin, please contact the Mailing staff

*Next Due Date for Bulletin Articles/Items:*

***Friday, December 21, 2012***

***Don't forget to get your (typed) items in!!  
This includes flyers – please forward to the editor!***

**Congregation B'nai Israel**

**1256 Nebraska Street**

**Vallejo, CA 94590**

**707-642-6526**

**[www.bnaisrael.com](http://www.bnaisrael.com)**

**[cbioffice1@yahoo.com](mailto:cbioffice1@yahoo.com)**



# בני ישראל

DECEMBER 2012

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1 Services 10:00 am
2 Sunday School 10:00 - 12:00 Chanukah Boutique 10:00 - 1:00	3	4 Hebrew School 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm	5	6 Finance Committee 7:00 pm	7 Services 8:00 pm Rabbi White	8 Services 10:00 am Rabbi White 1st Night of Chanukah
9 Sunday School 10:00 - 12:00 Benicia Menorah Lighting 4:30 pm	10 Board Meeting 7:00 pm 3rd Night of Chanukah	11 Hebrew School 4:00 - 6:00 pm  4th Night of Chanukah	12 5th Night of Chanukah	13 6th Night of Chanukah	14 Shabbat Seder 7:00 pm Rabbi White 7th Night of Chanukah	15 Services 10:00 am  8th Night of Chanukah
16 Sunday School 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Adult Ed 10:45 am	17	18 Hebrew School 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm	19 Hadassah Board Meeting 7:00 pm	20	21 Services 8:00 pm Rabbi White  Salomon Oneg	22 Services 10:00 am Rabbi White
23	24	25	26	27	28 Children's Service 7:00 pm General Services 8:00 pm	29
30	31					

# DRAFT

## JANUARY 2013

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2	3	4 Services 8:00 pm	5 Services 10:00 am
6 Sunday School 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Gift Shop Open	7	8 Hebrew School 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm	9	10 Finance Committee 7:00 pm	11 Shabbat Seder 7:00 pm Rabbi White	12 Services 10:00 am Rabbi White
13 Sunday School 10:00 - 12:00 Sisterhood 10:45 am Film Event 12:00 pm	14 Board Meeting 7:00 pm	15 Hebrew School 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm	16 Hadassah Board Meeting 7:00 pm	17	18 Services 8:00 pm Rabbi White	19 Services 10:00 am Rabbi White
20	21 Martin Luther King Day	22 Hebrew School 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm	23	24	25 Children's Service 7:00 pm General Services 8:00 pm Rabbi White	26 Services 10:00 am Tu B'Shevat
27 Fundraiser 8:00 am Sunday School 10:00 - 12:00 Adult Ed 10:45 am Hadassah Gen Mtg 1:00 pm IAF Launch Event 3:00 - 5:00 pm	28	29	30	31		

# Thunder Valley Casino Bus Trip

A Fundraiser to benefit  
CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

FUN!  
FUN!  
FUN!

## Bus Pick-up

8 a.m. CBI parking lot at 1256 Nebraska St. Vallejo

8:15 a.m. Holiday Lane, Fairfield (close to Courtyard by Marriott )

Return : same areas – on or about 6 p.m.

SUNDAY,  
JANUARY 27, 2013

The Casino is located in Lincoln, about a 2 -hour ride in an air-conditioned bus with a bathroom. Enjoy early morning Coffee and Muffins, and some Brain Teasers and Bingo on board.

Cost: \$27.00 per person.

Upon bus arrival at the Casino,  
You will receive vouchers of \$15 in free  
slot play and \$5 towards  
food purchase..

Reservations/Questions  
Gail 707 425-5866  
Email: glamkins@gmail.com

Helene 707 425-2211  
Email: helseyfalk@comcast.net





Upon entering Congregation B'nai Israel, one sees our first, and full, Tree of Life, a symbol of our many joys and happiness. Read the plaques on the original Tree of Life; they reflect the history of CBI. I have two plaques on that Tree of Life; one commemorating our son's Bar Mitzvah and one for our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.

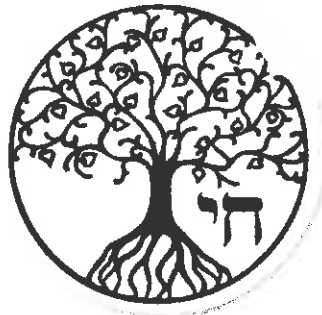
Thanks to the generosity of the Campbell family, our synagogue has a second Tree of Life, with lovely, golden leaves, ready to commemorate our community's many simchas! I have ordered one leaf to honor my grandson's Bar Mitzvah and soon will order a second leaf for our thirty-fifth wedding anniversary.

I suggest each member of Congregation B'nai Israel think of two happy events in our lives worth remembering and purchase a "leaf" on the Tree of Life. If we all purchase two leaves on the Tree, we can fill it and celebrate by adding a third Tree of Life! Send the message to be inscribed on your leaf to John Campbell, [jr.campbell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jr.campbell@sbcglobal.net), or to me, Fred Zola, [fredzola@earthlink.net](mailto:fredzola@earthlink.net). The cost is \$300 per leaf. Every time you enter our synagogue, you, your family and your friends will be reminded of a joyous time in your lives.

- ❖ Significant anniversaries or birthdays
- ❖ Births, Brit Milah, Baby Naming
- ❖ Bar and Bat Mitzvah
- ❖ Parents and grandparents honoring their children & grandchildren
- ❖ Children and grandchildren honoring their parents & grandparents
- ❖ CBI Leaders
- ❖ Community members' accomplishments

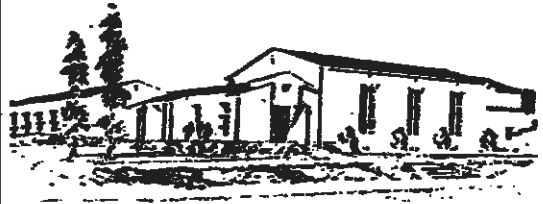
Let us hold onto and remember our happy times and fill our beautiful, new, Tree of Life.

Fred Zola  
[fredzola@earthlink.net](mailto:fredzola@earthlink.net)



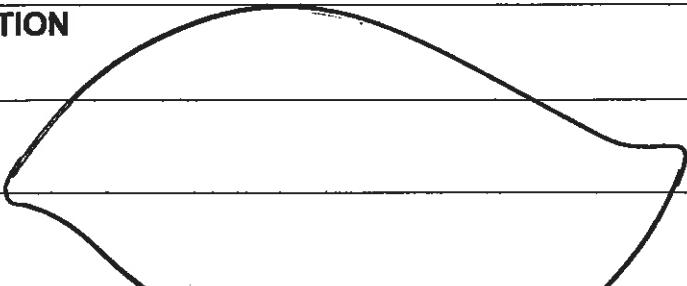
# Congregation B'nai Israel

1256 Nebraska Street, Vallejo, CA 94590  
Email: [cbioffice1@yahoo.com](mailto:cbioffice1@yahoo.com) or 707.642.6256  
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## TREE OF LIFE

### LEAF ORDER FORM

NAME	DATE		
EMAIL	PHONE		
INSCRIPTION			
			

1 Leaf @ \$300.00

Other \_\_\_\_\_ (CBI Members only)

You will be invoiced for your total amount due.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL, 1256 NEBRASKA STREET, VALLEJO, CA 94590 ATTN: SUE BARUSH, ADMINISTRATOR



## Small electronics Recycling Program

I am very pleased to announce a new and additional small electronics recycling program at CBI! We are now accepting the following:

Ink jet cartridges      Laser Toner Cartridges  
Digital Cameras      Cellular Phones  
Laptop Computers      iPods  
MP3 players

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**Now is the time for you to**  
***Sponsor a Seat***

To Honor or In Memory of a Loved One  
or to Celebrate a Life Cycle Event

1 seat	\$300
2 seats	\$575
3 seats	\$850
4 seats	\$1100
6 seats	\$1500

***Let's finish the job we started!***

Please mail completed form to:

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Vallejo, CA 94590

For information contact:  
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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This offer is only valid during Hadassah's Centennial year, January 1–December 31, 2012  
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A portion of the Life Membership enrollment fee is allocated for a subscription to *Hadassah Magazine*. In keeping with IRS regulations, membership dues/enrollment fees are not considered to be tax deductible contributions.

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4:30 - 8:00 PM

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#### MISSION

OUR MISSION IS TO CREATE AN INTERPROFESSIONAL STUDENT-RUN HEALTH CLINIC THAT IMPROVES ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF VALLEJO WHILE ENHANCING THE CLINICAL SKILLS OF OSTEOPATHIC, PHARMACY, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT AND PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENTS, AS WELL AS THE EDUCATIONAL SKILL OF THE EDUCATION STUDENTS.