

Lincolnwood Jewish Congregation AG Beth Israel Bulletin

עַם יִשְׂרָאֵל חַי



Rabbi Meyers' Message

November-December 2025 Issue 6

Inside this issue

Rabbi's Message	1,4
President's Perspective	2
Announcements	3
Calendar of Events	5
Schedule of Services	6,7

Rabbi: Yehuda Meyers

Rabbi Emeritus: Joel Lehrfield, PhD

LJCAGBI Bulletin

Published bi-monthly
(6-7 issues per year)

Lincolnwood Jewish Congregation
A.G. Beth Israel
7117 North Crawford Ave.
Lincolnwood, Illinois 60712
Phone: 847.676.0491
www.ljcagbi.org

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...”

Charles Dickens opened his 1859 novel, *A Tale of Two Cities* with those words describing the upheaval of the French Revolution. Yet in many ways they feel just as relevant to us now, in 2025.

We are living in complicated days, replete with conflicting emotions. On the one hand, we have breathed a collective sigh of relief as the last remaining living hostages have been brought home. We all experienced genuine joy seeing them reunited with their families. Additionally, as of the writing of this article, the ceasefire in Israel is still holding, and for the first time in over two years, Israel is no longer at war. The Jewish people, and the State of Israel in particular, have begun the long and difficult process of recovery and rebuilding. We all feel a sense of gratitude, relief and hope.

Yet, at the same time we cannot ignore the shadows that surround us. The State of Israel finds itself more isolated on the world stage than at any time in recent memory. Its enemies still seek its destruction. And antisemitism has not only returned to its highest levels since WWII, but it has been normalized across the globe, including here in our own beloved America.

In our religious and communal lives as Jews, we feel this paradox as well. We have just emerged from the spiritual highs of the Yomim Nora'im. Spending the Yomim Tovim together was

Rabbi Meyers' Message—continued on page 4

President's Perspective

We have made it through another holiday season, with much praying, learning, eating, celebrating, and gathering together indoors and out. Now begins the work of the year, with not much on the Jewish Calendar to distract us.



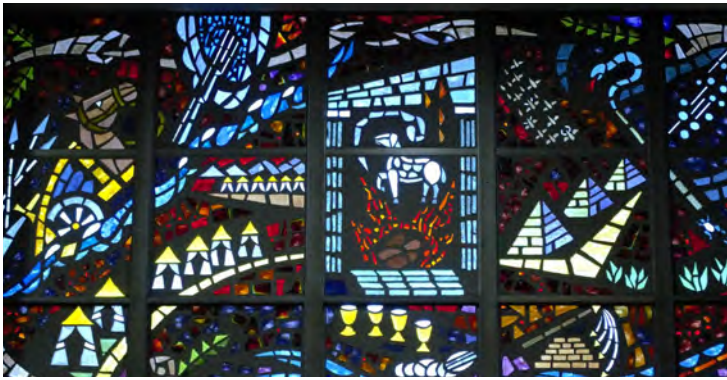
As a community, one of our most important functions is to have daily minyanim. There are times individuals are in need of a minyan, but the community requires a minyan multiple times per day, every day.

For now, we have minyanim scheduled every morning and evening. Monday through Thursday we meet late for Maariv only at 7:40pm. Please keep in touch with us - let us know if maintaining a year-round Mincha/Maariv would be better, knowing it can get as early as 4:05pm in mid-December, or if a different time for Maariv would work better. We need you for the minyan, and we need the minyan to work for you.

Let us look forward to Shabbat each week, let us work and pray toward the redemption, and let us join together on the early Erev Shabbat of winter for Oneg Shabbat, the Rabbi's Tisch!

Daniel Gutstein
President





On behalf of myself and my family, I would like to thank my LJC AGBI family for the Shul covering Shabbat dinner (especially the Meisels for delivering it) and the many visits during Shiva for my dear sister. I cannot begin to express how meaningful it was to my brother and me

Mitchell Sandler

Announcements

Mazal Tov

To Alex Goldstein for completing a very successful run as shul catering manager. We owe you much gratitude for your service and look forward to your continued involvement in our catering program.

Refuah Shelema

Berta Kalman

Condolences to the family of:

Esther Krokhmalnik

High Holiday Thanks

- To our ushers:
Stuart Kalman Paul Kramer Lou Reiff
Henry Kalter Jeff Light
- To our babysitter:
Sarah Kramer
- To our security partners:
Walsh Security Lincolnwood Police Dept
- To our set up staff:
Ryszard & Yadviga
- To anyone else that I may have omitted
Steve Kramer
Sergeant-at-Arms

The Most FABULOUS SHIUR in Town!

FOR ABOUT WOMEN

Parshat Toldot, Nov. 22 Arlene Miller

Parshat Miketz, Dec. 20 Marcia Kramer

MEN

LJC AGBI

TO SPONSOR A SHIUR IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE, OR IN HONOR OF A SIMCHA PLEASE CONTACT THE SHUL OFFICE

meaningful, uplifting and energizing. And yet we immediately transition away from Yuntif, and enter the darkest stretch of the Jewish calendar; Marcheshvan, the bitter and empty month, without a single holiday. The days are growing shorter, the nights longer, the weather is getting colder and we are left waiting for light and warmth.

However, if we lift our eyes and look just beyond the horizon, Chanukah is a short ways away, right at the end of December this year.

When the Chashmonaim (A.K.A. the Maccabees) reclaimed the Beit HaMikdash, they had every reason to wait before lighting the Menorah. Their victory was fragile at best, the building and its vessels were desecrated and destroyed and they had but one small jar of undefiled oil, hardly enough to make a difference. And yet they chose not to wait and to light the Menorah right away. They chose to begin even in imperfection, believing that one flame could still pierce the darkness. And indeed, they were right.

Because the Menorah didn't just burn for one day, it burned for eight days and eight nights. But even more importantly, it restored a broken nation's spirit. It showed that Jewish hope can never be measured by quantity. It proved that even in the aftermath of war and devastation, there can still be renewal, joy, and light.

And that message is most pertinent to us now. As the State of Israel and the Jewish people (our people) begin the fragile and delicate process of rebuilding, the flame of Chanukah reminds us that from the ruins, from the exhaustion, from the tenuousness of our situation, light can still emerge.

However, Chanukah is not only a story of survival, but of celebration. We sing Hallel! We give presents! We eat sufganiyot and latkes! Chanukah is a joyous time! And no, we aren't rejoicing because everything was fixed or secure. We rejoice because even one small flame is enough to begin again, with a smile.

And perhaps that is our challenge this year. Chanukah this year arrives at an emotional crossroads for our people. But the very essence of Chanukah is that we can celebrate, we can sing, we can rejoice not only when everything is whole, but even when it is still in the process of being mended. These times may indeed feel like the best and worst. But Chanukah reminds us that even in the most complicated of days, we can rejoice and give thanks for the light we do have and to celebrate every fragile step forward. May we experience the ultimate redemption Bimheirah B'Yameinu. Amen.

Come have a L'Chaim and socialize with us on Shabbat after davening.

Everyone is welcome.

Our libations are not funded by the shul; therefore 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"

Join us in a l'chaim this Shabbat!

Thanks to the following individuals for contributions made during the past six months:

Mark Dyn

Larry & Arlene Miller

Mitchell Sandler

Daniel & Kari Gutstein

Anna & Myron Moscovitch

Michael & Renie Schreiber



November-December 2025 Calendar of Events

Sunday, November 2	Daylight Savings Ends
Tuesday, November 11	Veterans Day
Friday, November 22	Rosh Chodesh Kislev
Thursday, November 27	Thanksgiving
Sunday, December 14	Erev Chanukah
Sunday, December 15 thru Monday, December 22	Chanukah
Saturday, December 20	Rosh Chodesh Tevet- Day 1
Sunday, December 21	Rosh Chodesh Tevet- Day-2
Tuesday, December 30	Aseret B' Tevet



LJCAGBI Proudly Presents

SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

Alissa Zeffren

NOVEMBER 15TH,
PARSHAT CHAYEI SARAH
SHABBAT MORNING KIDDUSH



Alissa Zeffren is the Director of NILI: Chicago Institute of Women's Learning and an educator at Ida Crown Jewish Academy. She is dedicated to advancing Jewish learning, leadership, and engagement. Through her work, Alissa inspires students and community members alike with her passion for Torah, her commitment to Jewish identity, and her vision for empowering the next generation.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Schedule for Services &

NOVEMBER 2025/CHESHVAN- KISLEV 5786						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Shabbat
Key: S – Shacharit M- Maariv M/M- Mincha/Maariv CL – Candle Lighting H- Havdalah						1 LECH LECHA S: 9:15am M/M: 5:20pm H: 6:26pm
2 S: 8:30am M/M: 4:30pm	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 M: 7:40pm	7 S: 7:00am CL: 4:19pm M/M: 4:25pm	8 VAYEIRA S: 9:15am Mincha: 12:15pm H: 5:18pm M: 5:45pm
9 S: 8:30am M/M: 4:20pm	10 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	11 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	12 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	13 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	14 S: 7:00am CL: 4:12pm M/M: 4:15pm	15 CHAYEI SARAH S: 9:15am Mincha: 12:15pm H: 5:11pm M: 5:35pm
16 S: 8:30am M/M: 4:15pm	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 M: 7:40pm	21 ROSH CHODESH KISLEV S: 7:00am CL: 4:07pm M/M: 4:10pm	22 TOLDOT S: 9:15am Mincha: 12:15pm H: 5:06pm M: 5:30pm
23 S: 8:30am M/M: 4:10pm	24 S: 7:00am M: 7:40	25 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	26 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	27 S: 8:30am M/M: 4:10pm	28 S: 7:00am CL: 4:03pm M/M: 4:05pm	29 VAYEITZEI S: 9:15am Mincha: 12:15pm H: 5:02pm M: 5:30pm
30 S: 8:30am M/M: 4:05pm						

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 2026 issue, Monday, December 22, 2025**. 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 2025/KISLEV -TEVET 5786						
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 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	5 S: 7:00am CL: 4:01pm M/M: 4:05pm	6 VAYISHLACH S: 9:15am Mincha: 12:15pm H: 5:01pm M: 5:25pm
7 S: 8:30am M/M: 4:05pm	8 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	9 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	10 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	11 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	12 S: 7:00am CL: 4:01pm M/M: 4:05pm	13 VAYESHEV S: 9:15am Mincha: 12:15pm H: 5:01pm M: 5:25pm
14 S: 8:30 am M/M: 4:05pm	15 CHANUKAH DAY 1 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	16 CHANUKAH DAY 2 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	17 CHANUKAH DAY 3 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	18 CHANUKAH-DAY 4 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	19 CHANUKAH-DAY 5 S: 7:00am CL: 4:03pm M/M: 4:05pm	20 MIKETZ ROSH CHODESH TEVET-Day 1 CHANUKAH-DAY 6 S: 9:15am Mincha: 12:15 H: 5:04pm M: 5:30pm
21 ROSH CHODESH TEVET-Day 2 CHANUKAH-DAY 7 S: 8:30am M/M: 4:10pm	22 CHANUKAH-DAY 8 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	23 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	24 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	25 S: 8:30am M/M: 4:10pm	26 S: 7:00am CL: 4:07pm M/M: 4:10pm	27 VAYIGASH S: 9:15am Mincha: 12:15pm H: 5:08pm M: 5:35pm
28 S: 8:30am M/M: 4:15pm	29 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm	30 ASARA B'TEVET (FAST) S: 7:00am M/M: 4pm	31 S: 7:00am M: 7:40pm			KEY: S - Shacharit M - Maariv M/M - Mincha/Maariv CL - Candle Lighting H - Havdalah

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.

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 their year of mourning. Please attend whenever you are able.**

Thanks to LJCAGBI Simchat Torah Fund Sponsors and volunteer helpers

Simchat Torah was a wonderful celebration, with lively hakafot, singing and dancing. The Simchat Torah luncheon completed the festivities which began with our Shemini Atzeret kiddush. Thanks to Alex Goldstein for taking charge of the luncheon and the kiddush luncheon, and to Renee Silberman; Paul Kramer, Uri Dissen, Lea Goldstein and Julie Esguerra for assisting in the setup and cleanup for these celebrations. Special thanks to Arlene Miller and Kari Gutstein for offering woman's study sessions.

A special thanks to each of the Simchat Torah Fund sponsors. This fund helps to pay for kiddushim throughout the year, and these funds are greatly appreciated. This year's sponsors are:

Beverly Alpern
Elliot Baker
Marc & Eileen Feder
Roberta Fink
Alexander & Leah Goldstein
Gloria Goldstein
Jay Goldstein

Gary & Judy Goodman
Daniel & Kari Gutstein
Paul & Marcia Kramer
Jeffrey & Edith Light
Stuart & Regine Meisel
Larry & Arlene Miller
Myron & Anna Moscovitch

Harvey & Pam Redfern
Mitchell Sandler
Joe & Renee Silberman
Merle Warshausky
Wini Weisman
David & Marilyn Zeller

**LJCAGBI
PRE-
CHANUKAH
SCHOLAR-
IN-
RESIDENCE**

**ELI
BRAND
LCSW**

Psychotherapist and
Trauma Specialist

**PARSHAT VAYESHEV
SHABBAT MORNING KIDDUSH, DEC. 13 @ THE SHUL
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE**

ALL NEW!



Monthly Ladies Shiur

w/ Rabbi Meyers

After Kiddush, Shabbat Mornings



PARSHAT LECH LECHA, NOVEMBER 1ST

PARSHAT VAYESHEV, DECEMBER 13TH

Contact the Shul office to sponsor a week



The Succah Team—Up and Down

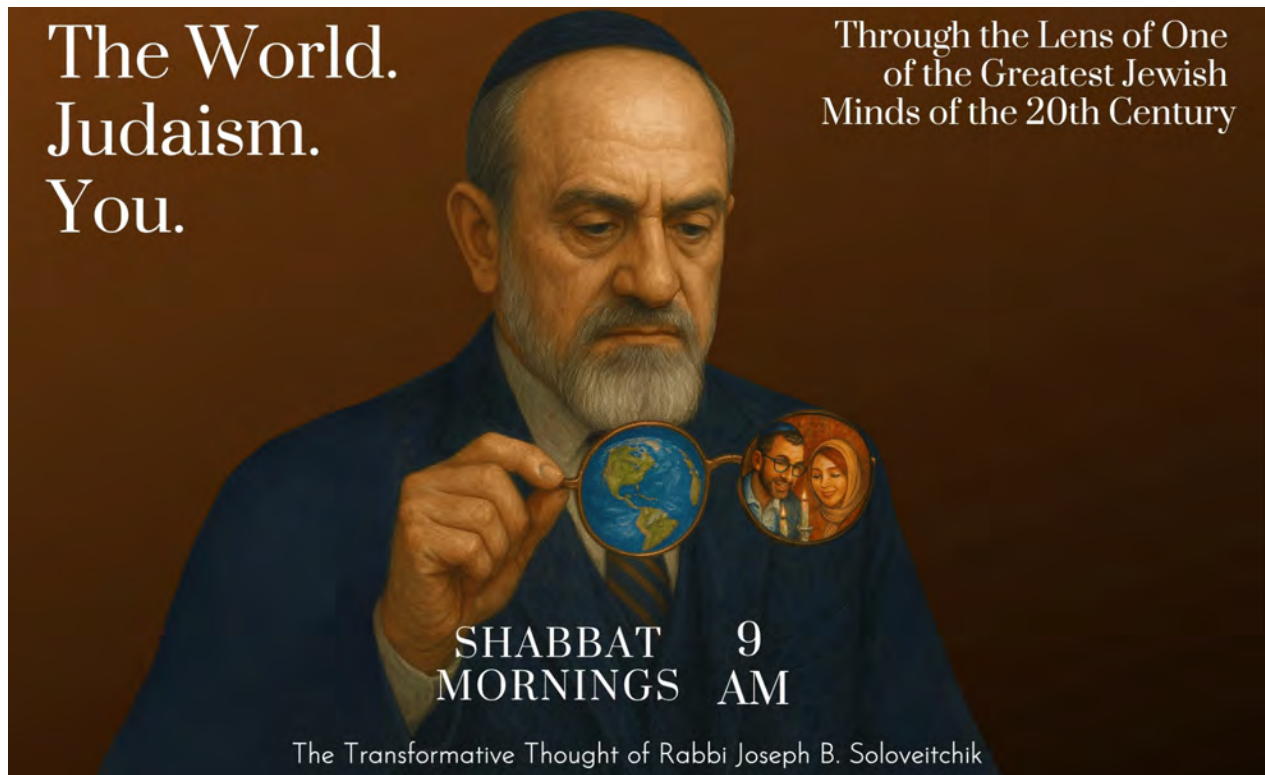
Thanks those who listed below for putting up and taking down our Succah. Your help is much appreciated:

Elliot Baker
Rob Freeman
Aaron Goldman
Gary Goodman
Dan Gutstein

Garren Kalter
Henry Kalter
Russell Katz
Paul Kramer
Steve Kramer

Stuart Meisel
Rabbi Hillel Meyers
Rabbi Yehuda Meyers
Yagviga & Ryszard





Off the Subject

Mitzy moves into a new apartment, and calls her best friend Elsie.

“Come see my new place!”

“I’d love to! Where do you live?”

“780 East 86th Street. You’ll get off the train at 86th, and you’ll see a big red building as soon as you leave the station. You’ll open the outer door with your right elbow, then in the vestibule, you’ll ring 3A with your left elbow. After I buzz you in, you’ll open the main door with your right elbow. Then you’ll walk through the lobby to the elevator, press the call button with your left elbow, get inside, and press number 3 with your right elbow. You’ll make a right when you get off and you’ll see 3A on the first door. You’ll ring my bell with your left elbow, and then I’ll scream for joy when I see you!”

“I’m excited to see you too! But, Mitzy, what’s with all the elbows?”

“What, you’re coming empty-handed?”

Moishe Himmelfarb was famous among traveling salesmen for being completely unflappable, always remaining cool. Today, Moishe was in the department store demonstrating the new “unbreakable combs” as they were called. He was impressing shoppers who stopped by to look by putting the comb through all sorts of torture and stress.

Finally to impress even the skeptics in the crowd, Moishe bent the comb completely in half, and it snapped with a loud crack. Without missing a beat, Moishe bravely held up both halves of the ‘unbreakable’ comb for everyone to see and said,

“And this, ladies and gentlemen, is what an unbreakable comb looks like on the inside...”



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.

MISH
MONDAY NIGHT MACHSHAVA

MISH MORE
TUESDAY NIGHT TORAH

MISH MOST
THURSDAY NIGHT WILD CARD

COME TO DAVEN, STAY FOR THE AFTER PARTY
MON. TUES. THURS. NIGHTS
AFTER THE 7:40PM MAARIV



GET PUMPED FOR CHANUKAH!

Magnificent Menorah Making & More!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH @10:30AM
LINCOLNWOOD JEWISH CONGREGATION AGBI
7117 N. CRAWFORD, LINCOLNWOOD

Register online @ ljcagbi.org (under the events tab).
Sponsorship opportunities available.

Suggested Methods for Providing Contributions 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.



Motzash
Paint & Sip

**SATURDAY
NIGHT,
NOV. 22ND**

**7:15pm @
LJCAGBI
7117 N. Crawford,
Lincolnwood**

**Light Melave
Malka Included!**

\$25 - COVER CHARGE

To register email
office@ljcagbi.org
or call 847-676-0491

BYOB



Pre-Chanukah

LUNCH AND LEARN

@ Shallots Bistro

TUESDAY
DEC. 9
12:30PM

SPECIAL DISCOUNTED MENU
FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS!

NEW LUNCH MENU
OPTIONS AVAILABLE!

PRIOR REGISTRATION
NOT REQUIRED!

PRE
-
CH
AN
UK
AH Q & A



SHABBAT
MORNING
PARSHAT
VAYISHLACH
DEC. 6



Celebrate Chanukah



With LJCAGB!

Saturday, Dec. 13
at 6:30 pm

- ☆ Music
- ☆ Refreshments
- ☆ Family fun activities
- ☆ Candle and dreidle making
- ☆ Trivia
- ☆ Something for everyone!



Watch your mail/email for more information. Reservations will be required--and volunteers are always welcome!!!



SHABBAT KIDDUSHIM NEED YOU!

Please join the new “Kiddush Committee” to make our weekly kiddush luncheons a participatory event

Lincolnwood Jewish Congregation A.G. Beth Israel has provided a delicious Shabbat kiddush to our members for more than six decades, first through the Sisterhood and more recently through Starr Kosher Catering. However, for the past year planning, ordering, shopping, preparing and setting up for kiddush has been accomplished by a single individual (kudos to Alex Goldstein!), with some assistance from several congregants on occasion--all without a kitchen.

This is not a sustainable practice. Many hands make light work, and we need your hands to continue to provide the best Shabbat kiddushim in the Greater Chicago area.

We need individuals to help plan menus, place orders, shop for produce, and pick up orders. This committee will meet on a monthly basis to organize and assign tasks. The more volunteers we have, the lighter the load will be for everyone.

Please contact Marcia Kramer by voice or text at 847.404.2189 if you can participate (responses given verbally on Shabbat may be forgotten). As snowbirds leave and vacations are taken, it is urgent to start this now!

