

For immediate release:  
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Jersey City, New Jersey

Kathleen DiChiara, Executive Director of Community Food Bank of New Jersey, to  
Speak in Jersey City at Congregation B'nai Jacob on Friday evening, February 5th

Kathleen DiChiara, Executive Director of the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, will be the featured speaker at Congregation B'nai Jacob at its Kabbalat Shabbat Speaker Series on Friday evening, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 8 PM. Ms. Chiara leads the Community Food Bank of NJ, the most significant organization for collecting and distributing food to the needy of New Jersey. She presides over a staff with oversight and coordination for 18 of 21 New Jersey counties' food pantries and food collection and distribution centers. Members of all faiths in the Jersey City community and wider Hudson County are invited to attend.

Dr. Marsha Dubrow, Spiritual Leader and Cantor of Congregation B'nai Jacob, feels strongly that especially during the winter months it is important to be mindful about those in our midst who are less fortunate. "During the months of January and February – in the Hebrew calendar, Shevat and Adar - two important Jewish holidays are observed that have, as a component of their celebration, awareness of the hungry in our community: Tu B'Shevat and Purim." "With Tu B'Shevat in January, the Jewish festival that celebrates first fruits in Israel," Cantor Dubrow explains, "there is an opportunity for Tikkun Olam – healing the world, a fundamental Jewish value – to provide food to the hungry right here in our Jersey City community. On Purim, the celebration of the post-biblical Book of Esther, which occurs this year at the very end of February, we are also commanded to give gifts which include food to the needy. This is known as Shalach Manot in Hebrew or Sholoch Manos in Yiddish, literally sending gifts."

The evening will begin with an abbreviated Friday Night Live! musical service led by Cantor Dubrow and will include some of her award-winning liturgical compositions. A festive Oneg Shabbat will follow Ms. DiChiara's talk and Q&A. Free parking is available. The synagogue is located at 176 West Side Avenue in Jersey City, three blocks from New Jersey City University. For further information and directions, contact the synagogue at (201) 435-5725 or [www.bnaijacobjc.org](http://www.bnaijacobjc.org).