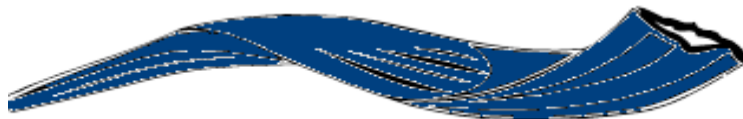


SHOFAR



Monthly Newsletter of the Monterey Peninsula Jewish Community

www.carmelbethisrael.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

**JUL
2**

Zumba at CBI
Also on July 9, 16, & 23

**JUL
15**

Jew-ish Trivia Night

**JUL
22**

Havdalah on the Beach
Also on August 19

**JUL
23**

CBI Speaker Series Begins
With our Own Sam Helfont

**JUL
26**

Tisha B'Av Observance

**AUG
6**

CBI Annual Meeting

**AUG
13**

The Addams Family at
Forest Theater

**AUG
27**

Jewish Food Festival

ANNUAL MEETING

Join us on Sunday, August 6 at 5:00 pm
All Members in Good Standing are Invited



"Jew"-ish Trivia Night Returns!

Join us on Saturday evening, July 15 at 7 pm for "Jew"-ish Trivia, Round 2! We are delighted to announce that Liotte Greenbaum, Jewish Trivia Maven, will return to CBI for another fun-filled Jewish Trivia night (we will start the evening with a short Havdalah service). Bring your family! Invite your Chavurah! Put together a team! (If you are flying solo that evening, we will happily assign you to a team.) CBI will provide the libations—please bring a dessert to share. Register online at www.carmelbethisrael.org.

Teachers Needed



Our CBI Religious school, now known as Hesed Academy: "Developing Kind Souls" begins again on September 10. Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum and Cantor Alisa Fineman oversee this vital educational program, but our teachers are the heart and soul of Hesed Academy. Would you consider teaching at Hesed on a shared basis this coming year, a commitment of 13-14 Sunday morning sessions from September through May? Please call Rabbi Bruce at 831-624-2015 if you can perform this wonderful *mitzvah* for our youth (and our entire Congregation).



From the Rabbi's Desk

One of my favorite activities as a rabbi is adult education. I know that I am teaching people who want to be there and who want to learn. While many of our Hesed Academy students enjoy their studies, some

of our young students will say they are only attending religious school because their parents are making them! They don't yet appreciate how the Jewish education they are receiving might assist them. They cannot comprehend how Judaism might serve as an anchor in their lives when troubles arise. Unfortunately, they perceive Judaism as more of a burden than a gift.

But those who join me in our adult studies classes enjoy and celebrate the richness and pleasure that our traditions have to offer. Recently in our Biblical Hebrew class we studied a verse describing God's search for a partner for Adam. The text uses the words "Ezer C'negbo" which we learned can be translated to mean a variety of things. We learned that the Jewish Publication Society translation of "fitting helper" doesn't fully grasp the significance of those two words. We looked at many other translations that revealed that Adam's partner might best help him by challenging him. A fitting partner would, when needed, support and at other times when needed push. Our class began to discuss what are the best ways we can serve as companions to others? By the end of our lesson I certainly felt enriched and uplifted. The discussion continued even though I had to leave for my next appointment.

Similarly, I enjoy how our Shabbat Torah study discussion transitions from the social hall into the parking lot almost every week. As I am closing down the synagogue and locking the door, the study/discussion/debate continues. Those who participate find our wrestling with the text and the values in our teachings stimulating. As Tevye describes in "Fiddler on the Roof," having the time to sit and study our tradition is the greatest joy of all.

I realize our last Adult B'nai Mitzvah class was held before the start of COVID, over 5 years ago. If you have never celebrated becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah or want to review and renew your Hebrew and Jewish studies, then join me. Classes will begin late in

the fall season and will be held weekly throughout the school year, date and time to be determined! Together we will strengthen our Hebrew skills and study some of our wonderful Jewish traditions and customs. Those who choose to do so might join in leading a Shabbat service and even chanting from the Torah scroll. Please call me if you are considering participating in our upcoming Adult B'nai Mitzvah class. Together may we celebrate the joy of Judaism.



From Cantor Alisa

Dear Friends,

After offering our "first fruits" and experiencing the revelatory spirit of the season at our *Shavuot* celebration and study in May, we move into the summer months, a

season of enjoying time off from school, going to camp, and vacationing with loved ones. On the Jewish calendar, however, summer is also a time of deep reflection—throughout our history, Jews have faced destruction and experienced great tragedies in the months of *Tammuz* and *Av*.

Beginning with the 17th of *Tammuz* (falling on July 6 this year), we commemorate the breach of the walls of Jerusalem just before the destruction of the Second Temple, the center of Jewish life, where our people experienced G-d's presence. This date marks the beginning of a period known as the "Three Weeks," leading up to *Tisha B'Av* (the 9th of *Av*, which falls on July 26), which is considered the saddest day on the Jewish calendar. It is a day of mourning over the destruction of both Temples and the brutality inflicted upon our people, including sages such as Rabbi Akiva, during the Roman occupation. Over time, this date has been linked to other tragedies that befell the Jewish people, including the expulsion of Jews from England, the Spanish Inquisition, and the Holocaust.

This period is intended to sensitize us to the broken times of our past as well as the brokenness in our world today. Our weekly services include special *haftarah* readings of Divine comfort to remind us that we have never been, and never will be, alone in our despair. A somber period, yes, but, as with many of our holidays, it offers us an invitation to pause, go deeper, and, at this time, reflect not only on our collective trauma but also on the tragedies and losses

in our own lives. In their endeavors to draw meaning from this period, our Sages of past and present offer us teachings about what happens when things fall apart. Who are we when everything we know to be sure and sound comes tumbling down? Might we find a reliable and stable inner refuge in the midst of change and uncertainty? Might some walls need to come down, whether personal or societal?

Rabbi Allan Lew (z"l) suggests that preparation for the High Holy Days actually begins on the 9th of Av, not the beginning of the month of *Elul*. The period of *Tammuz* and Av is intended to be a wake-up call to help prepare us for the wake-up call of the Shofar, sounded every day of *Elul* and on *Rosh HaShanah*. R' Lew discusses the practice of *t'shuva* as not just one of forgiveness but as a returning to our true and essential nature—a time to ask who we are beneath the surface, how do we face the reality of impermanence, and is there something we can count on in an ever-changing world? In his incredible book, **This Is Real and You Are Completely Unprepared: The Days of Awe as a Journey of Transformation**, R' Lew invites us to explore what happens when the constructs of our lives begin to crumble. With self-inquiry and guidance, R' Lew helps us face the reality of impermanence so that we can tend and strengthen the spiritual home within us and truly cherish the gift that life is.

May we learn from the lived wisdom of our ancestors and the inner temples of their hearts when our communities and our very lives were on the verge of destruction and, from that place draw strength, compassion, and the courage to ask “what is the true meaning of life and what is the world we wish to rebuild?”

Resources for High Holy Days preparation:

Book: *This Is Real and You Are Completely Unprepared: The Days of Awe as a Journey of Transformation* (2003) Rabbi Allan Lew (z"l)

Book: *60 Days: A Spiritual Guide to the High Holy Days*, Rabbi Simon Jacobson

<https://www.meaningfullife.com/60days>

Online resources: Institute for Jewish Spirituality, The Shofar Project: IJS

<https://www.jewishspirituality.org/go-%20deeper/the-shofar-project/>



Zumba will Meet Weekly through July 23!

Zumba will meet every Sunday morning at 10:00

am in the CBI Social Hall through July 23. Join CBI member and certified Zumba instructor Tracy Richards for an exhilarating 45-minute Zumba class, working out to exciting Israeli pop beats and other rhythms of the world. Suggested donation of \$36 to CBI for three months—register online at www.carmelbethisrael.org. All ages and fitness levels welcome!



Best Years--Yes, There Is a Free Lunch!

Join CBI Best Years' group for lunch on **Thursday, July 6 at noon** at r.g. Burgers in The Crossroads.

Our lunch, paid for in full by the CBI Senior Endowment Fund, gives us all the opportunity to shmooze with other CBI members and enjoy a delicious meal together. Come prepared to share ideas for future Best Years events. Meet us at the restaurant or call the CBI office at 831-624-2015 to RSVP; let us know if you need a ride to this event.



Family Shabbat Outdoor Services

Join us on CBI's backyard basketball court for our Erev Shabbat family service on **July 7** and again on August 4. Our family-friendly service begins at **6:00 pm**; Rabbi Bruce will offer birthday blessings and Moshe the Monkey will help the Rabbi tell a story in lieu of his regular sermon. CBI's playground will be open for children who may need to play quietly during parts of our service! Be sure to dress warmly (or in layers) as the evenings can get cold. After our Erev Shabbat service, we will enjoy an *oneg* in our social hall. If possible, please come a few minutes early to take a few chairs down to the basketball court. And, at the close of our service, we hope that many volunteers will join together to return our chairs and *siddurims* (prayer books) to the social hall.



Havdalah on the Beach

Join us on **Saturday**

evening, July 22 (and again on August 19) for Havdalah on Carmel Beach, just below 13th Avenue (look for Rabbi Bruce and his dog Mazek). Our Havdalah service begins at **7:00 pm** but feel free to come early with a picnic dinner. CBI provides a propane fire pit and s'mores for all-- bring warm clothes, beach toys, a blanket and/or beach chairs, and musical instruments. Everyone is welcome, including the family dog!

SPEAKER SERIES >>>

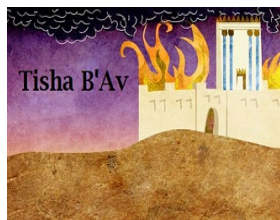
Our Very Own Sam Helfont Inaugurates CBI's new Speaker Series:

On **Sunday afternoon, July 23 from 3:00-5:00 pm**, join us for our first talk in CBI's new bimonthly speaker series. Sam Helfont, CBI member and Asst. Professor of Strategy and Policy in the Naval War College program at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, will speak on "Connections and Conflicts: Jews and Arabs in History." Sam's research focuses on international history and politics in the Middle East, especially Iraq and the Iraq Wars; his most recent book is *Iraq against the World: Saddam, America, and the Post-Cold War Order* (Oxford University Press, 2023). Sam will be speaking at the home of Charlotte Salomon and Scott Fetherston in the Carmel Highlands—wine and light hors d'oeuvres will be served. This event is free, but space is limited so please register at www.carmelbethisrael.org or call the CBI office and we will provide the address and gate code. Our next event will be a bagel brunch on Sunday, August 13 from 10:30 am–12:30 pm at CBI-- details to follow.



Lunch with our Clergy

On **Wednesday, July 26 at noon**, please join Cantor Alisa at Baja Cantina (7166 Carmel Valley Rd.) to discuss the significance of *Tisha B'Av* on our Jewish calendar and the concept that Jews are called during *Tammuz* and *Av* to prepare for the upcoming time of *t'shuvah* (returning, at-one-ment, and forgiveness). Register online at www.carmelbethisrael.org; we will order off the regular menu so expect lunch to cost approximately \$20.



Tisha B'Av Study

On Wednesday, **July 26, 7:00 pm** CBI will mark the somber holiday of Tisha B'Av with an evening of study and reflection. Further details coming soon.



Join Us For Community Shabbat Dinner!

Join us for our monthly tradition of community Shabbat dinners, prepared by Malina Breau and her entourage of assistants. Savor a sense of community and food worthy of celebration at **6:15 pm on Friday, July 28**.

Join us as we offer blessings for the bread and wine and sing traditional music to begin our erev Shabbat. This month we will honor our outgoing Board of Trustees with a delicious Paella dinner. Evening services follow at 7:30 pm. Register at carmelbethisrael.org or call the CBI office for reservations. The cost is \$18 for adults and \$10 for children.

Kolot HaLev to Enhance our July 21 & August 18 Erev Shabbat Services.

Cantor Alisa Fineman will lead CBI's erev Shabbat services on Friday evening, July 21 and Friday evening, August 18, accompanied by CBI's song circle. Join us for these musically-inspired services.



A World Premiere Production by New Canon Theatre Co.

Join fellow CBI members at Carmel High School's Performing Arts Center on **Sunday, July 30** for the **2:00 pm** matinee performance of the world premiere of Finding Chase, the first production produced through the New Canon Theatre Lab, dedicated to fostering new works. Written by the phenomenal Los Angeles playwright C. Wright, Finding Chase examines how survivors cope and re-discover themselves after a profound loss. Purchase your tickets at www.newcanontheatre.org.



It's that time of year again. Each year we must elect a new Board of Trustees, present the budget for the upcoming fiscal year to the Congregation, and handle various other matters that ensure the continued smooth operation of our beloved CBI. This year's meeting will take place at CBI on **Sunday, August 6 at 11 am** - please join us (you will also be able to join the Annual Meeting via Zoom).

Our agenda includes "State of the Synagogue" reports by Rabbi Bruce and leaders of our Congregation, and we will also honor some of our dedicated volunteers.

The meeting is open to all members in good standing (those who have submitted a 2023-24 pledge) and we ask that you register in advance. To attend in person, please register online at [CBI Annual Meeting](#) or call the CBI office. Our Bylaws require a quorum of 10% of our total membership.

To attend on Zoom please register via this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZEtc6prz4jGNzazosQWKHcG6UUeo5gUE6S>

Remember, to be eligible to vote we must receive your 2023-24 pledge by no later than August 1.

Copies of the 2023-24 budget are available for review upon request to CBI staff.

The slate of Board of Trustee candidates is:

President	Malina Breaux
Vice President	Danny Bernstein
Secretary	Arlene Krebs
Treasurer	Jill Firestone
Adult Education	Bob Fenton
Security	Marshal Blatt
Youth Activities	Sam Helfont
At Large	Laura Arnow
	Bobbie Ehrenpreis
	Ilana Entin
	Megan Felthoven
	Jillian Heisman



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Introducing the CBI Legacy Circle

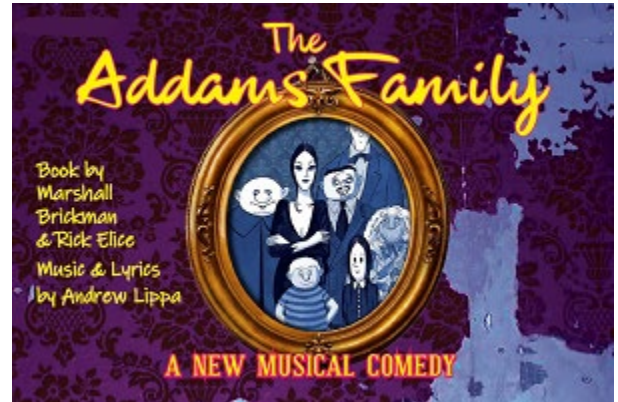
"As my ancestors planted for me, so do I plant for those who will come after me." Talmud Taanit 23a

CBI recently relaunched its CBI Legacy Circle and dedicated volunteers are meeting with members of our Congregation, asking them to make a gift to Congregation Beth Israel in their estate plans. A legacy gift costs nothing in the donor's lifetime but, from the moment of that pledge, each CBI Legacy Circle donor plays a vital part in ensuring that Congregation Beth Israel continues to serve our Jewish community for generations to come.

A legacy gift need not be large to make a difference. Each and every gift, regardless of size or amount, is of immense value to our Jewish future, empowering Congregation Beth Israel to strengthen and serve our congregation, expand our local Jewish community, and preserve a Jewish future for the Monterey Peninsula.

Numerous members of Congregation Beth Israel have already named CBI as a beneficiary in their estate plans, and we will highlight their generosity in the coming months. If you would like to learn more about the CBI Legacy Circle or become a member yourself, please contact Malina Breaux, President of our Congregation, at malinab@carmelbethisrael.org or Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum at rabbig@carmelbethisrael.org.

Imagine a Congregation Beth Israel that remains vibrant and strong for all Jews who come to our community—we hope you will join us in the CBI Legacy Circle and remember CBI in your will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance.



Enjoy The Addams Family, a Fun-Filled Musical for the Whole Family!

On Sunday afternoon, August 13 at 4:00 pm, bring your entire family and join other CBI members for Pac Rep's performance of The Addams Family, a comic musical feast, at the Outdoor Forest Theater in Carmel (Santa Rita St. and Mountain View Ave.). CBI will provide light refreshments and has reserved forty tickets for this event. Purchase your tickets at <https://www.carmelbethisrael.org/event/enjoy-the-addams-family-a-fun-filled-musical-for-the-whole-family-.html> adults and seniors: \$38, teens 13-18: \$18, children 12 and under: \$11, teachers and military: \$28



CBI Book Club

Here are our next dates and book selections:
July 11, 1:30 pm, home of Suellen Rubin (RSVP to suellenrubin@hotmail.com for directions). Book -- **THE FEMALE PERSUASION** by Meg Wolitzer.

August 8, 1:30 pm, home of Marva Hoffman (RSVP to marvabeth@sbcglobal.net for directions). Book: **THE DAUGHTER'S TALE** by Armando Lucas Correa.

September 12, 1:30 pm, home of Karen Wiskoff (RSVP to wiskoff@aol.com for directions). Book: **THE OPPERMANNs** by Lion Feuchtwanger.

THANK YOU

We Thank Our Tzadikim Members

We are grateful for all our members who support CBI. At this time, we offer a special thank you for the generosity of those members who contributed at the Tzadikim level in 2022-2023. Their extraordinary generosity allows us to provide the services, programming, and education that is so important to maintaining a vibrant Jewish community.

David Awerbuck & Astrid Holberg

Charles & Kerry Beren

Malina Breaux

Amanda & Alastair Curtis

Jeffrey & Alison David

Michael & Winter Dicus

David & Lois Epel

Robert Fenton and Debra Givner

Ellyn Gelson

Diana Greenbaum

Ann Jory

Laela Leavy

Judy Levin

Marc Lieberman

Jonathan Lipow

Tobi & Michael Marcus

Daniel & Beverly Nussbaum

Lawrence Rosen

Corrina Rucka

David Sabih & Anna Swartley

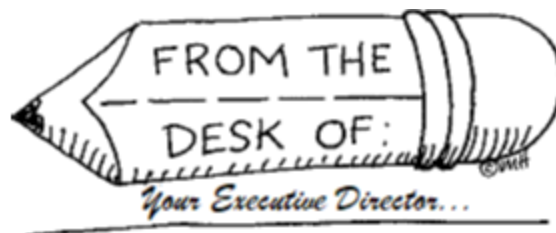
Jim & Natalie Sammet

Jason & Julie Schnitzer

Susan Simon

Dan & Ellen Weiner

Eby Wold



Thank you to everyone who has made their 2023-2024 membership pledge.

- If you haven't pledged yet, please make your pledge here:
<https://www.carmelbethisrael.org/form/cbi-2023-24-member-renewal-form.html>
Our annual membership pledges are our single largest source of support and make possible the programming, religious services, and community outreach we provide all year long.
- Have you visited our new CBI website, [CarmelBethIsrael.org](https://www.CarmelBethIsrael.org)? You can now register for CBI events online by clicking on any event on the homepage or online calendar.
- Please check out our new online calendar for up-to-date information about all upcoming services and events.
- If you have questions or need any help accessing our new online features please reach out. You can always call me at 413-884-4617 or email me at JulieC@CarmelBethIsrael.org.

Gan HaZikaron

Did you know that CBI maintains the only Jewish cemetery on the Monterey Peninsula? If you would like information about Gan HaZikaron, please contact Julie, JulieC@CarmelBethIsrael.org. There have recently been some nice improvements including a beautiful new gate.



Celebrate With Us!

JOIN US IN PERSON
SUNDAY, AUGUST 27 • 10AM-3 PM

FREE PARKING ON SITE

OR DRIVE THROUGH FOR PRE-ORDERS (DUE BY AUG 20 AT CARMELBETHISRAEL.ORG)

- PASTRAMI AND CORNED BEEF SANDWICHES • MATZO BALL SOUP • KUGEL • LATKES • POTATO KNISHES



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CarmelBethIsrael.org • foodfestival.cbi@gmail.com • Insta [@jewish_food_festival_carmel](https://www.instagram.com/jewish_food_festival_carmel)

Jewish Food Festival 2023 - Sponsor/Volunteer

BE A SPONSOR!

The Jewish Food Festival has been the signature event for Congregation Beth Israel. No other event or set of events has done more to open the temple to the citizens of Monterey County – Jews and non-Jews alike.

The Jewish Food Festival is also a major fund-raiser that is crucial to maintaining the financial health of the synagogue and its ability to provide support and services throughout the year.

We are back in person this year with a full complement of Jewish foods (plus beer and wine) and plenty of space to enjoy them. AND we are also offering drive through service for those who'd prefer.

Sponsor Benefits	Gourmet \$5000 +	Connoisseur \$2500 +	Foodie \$1000 +	Epicure \$500 +	Chef \$300 +	Sous Chef \$150 +
Booth Sponsorship	*	*				
Logo with Link on JFF Web Page	*	*				
Personalized Sponsor Sign at JFF	*	*	*			
Recognition on Festival Facebook	*	*	*			
Recognition on JFF Web Page	*	*	*	*		
Recognition on Festival Brochure	*	*	*	*	*	*

Email foodfestival.cbi@gmail.com or Call Abra 831.601.5773 with questions.

I wish to become a sponsor of the 2023 Jewish Food Festival at the level indicated below:

Gourmet Connoisseur Foodie Epicure Chef Sous Chef (circle one)

Business/organization for website link: _____

Print Name (Individual or Company)

Signature

Become a sponsor online at <https://www.carmelbethisrael.org/form/JFF-sponsorship> or make your check payable to: Congregation Beth Israel and return with this completed form to Congregation Beth Israel, 5716 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel, CA 93923. Or **call the temple office (831-624- 2015).**

NOTE: Congregation Beth Israel is a 501.c.3. Your sponsorship may be deductible for tax purposes. Check with your accountant.

OR VOLUNTEER!

Our members have been very kind in giving their time and effort to previous festivals. Please help again! Tasks include baking, cooking, booth representative, greeters, set-up and breakdown, runners, and stewardship of the environment (managing waste). Sign up sheets with days and times is forthcoming but if you would please send a brief email to LisaAverbuch@yahoo.com to make sure we get you on the mailing list that would be great! CBI members and non-members alike are welcome!



Looking for a few Shofar Blowers

The High Holy Days will be here before we know it, and CBI is looking for a few *ba'alei tekiyah* ("leaders of the blast") to blow the *shofar* for our congregation on the two days of *Rosh Hashanah*. If you are interested, please contact Rabbi Greenbaum.



Learn to Chant Torah?

Chanting from the Torah is always such a great honor and an uplifting spiritual experience. Our Cantor Alisa has taught our chanters to chant the special High Holy Days trope. Reciting the blessing over the haftarah on the High Holy Days is also very meaningful. If you are interested in learning to chant from the Torah or recite the Haftarah blessings for Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur, please contact the CBI office or your Worship Committee chair, Sylvia Krimsley, skrimsley@mac.com.

Todah Rabah!



Thank you Cantor Alisa for a beautiful, informative, spiritual evening. You have the gift of sharing your spiritual approach and help us go deeper. Rabbi Leah's meditation opened up new awareness and possibilities. All of the presenters were unique, thought provoking, and from the heart. The blintzes and salad were delicious and hit the spot. Such a wonderful Jewish happening! *Sylvia Krimsley, Chair CBI Worship Committee*



Gathering for Women · Monterey
Providing homeless women with supportive resources and a caring community

Thank you to all who attended Daniel Troia's film "We Are All In This Together" at CBI on May 13 with donations going to Gathering for Women (GFW). You raised \$1500 to help our local women!

GFW Board member Abdel Seck described some of the services (meals, showers and toiletries, case management, clean clothing) that GFW offers to unhoused or housing insecure women on the Monterey Peninsula.

We hope the film raised awareness about the various reasons that people find themselves in this situation. GFW helps those who are looking for a pathway to a brighter future through a more stable and healthier life.

If you would like to be a part of GFW's success story and want to donate or volunteer your time at the Monterey Day Center, please call 831-241-6154 or email ed@gatheringforwomen.org.





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www.pacificgroveanimalhospital.com



Social Action & Membership Engagement

The Social Action Team and Charlotte Salomon, Director of Membership Development & Engagement, are organizing events that offer our congregation volunteer opportunities. These varied activities are intended to involve everyone!—from children and teens to adults and families.

Mark Your Calendars for these Mitzvahs!

We will provide more information in our weekly CBI e-newsletters. Meanwhile, here's what's being planned:



Beach Clean-Up

Sunday, July 23- 10:00 am: Beach Clean-up with the Surfrider Foundation, Monthly beach clean-up at Sand City Beach at the end of Tioga Avenue. Everyone Welcome-All ages. Supplies Provided.

Saturday morning, August 12: If you are not attending Michael Tamler's Bar Mitzvah that morning, consider participating in the CA State Parks' monthly cleanup/maintenance at Carmel River State Beach.

Food Drives Organized for Our Holidays!

Fall 2023—High Holy Days Food Drive

December—Chanukah Food Drive

Spring 2024—Passover Food Drive



I-HELP

Now that Hesed Academy has closed for the summer so that our students and their parents will not be overseeing CBI's monthly I-HELP commitment, we are grateful that members

of our congregation have volunteered to provide meals and serve our guests for the summer months.

Thank you, Rabbi for your leadership with Carmel Valley Rotary. In June, as they have done for many years, this Rotary Club provided the food and welcome to our I-HELP guests.

Coming up are:

- Sunday, July 3- Hosted by CBI Havurah, led by Dan and Bev Nussbaum and Carol and Joe Mironov
- Sunday, August 6-Hosted by Qué Será, Que Será Havurah, led by Jennifer Stone and Lew Bauman
- Sunday, September 3, Hosted by the CBI Board of Trustees

More Tikkun Olam Opportunities This Summer for CBI Members

Did you know that CBI is a founding member of Jews Christians and Moslems United (JCMU) against food insecurity on the Monterey Peninsula? JCMU needs volunteers every Thursday afternoon at Epiphany Lutheran & Episcopal Church, 425 Carmel Ave. in Marina to assist with the preparation and handing out of over 100 dinners each week. Two-hour shifts are available from 1:00-6:00 pm. Please contact Rabbi Bruce directly if you are interested in helping JCMU help our neighbors.

Did you know that CBI is also a founding member of the Interfaith Outreach Council, which operates the Joining Hands Benefit Shop at 26358 Carmel Rancho Lane in Carmel? Joining Hands is staffed almost exclusively by volunteers and, from the store's proceeds in 2022, donated almost \$130,000 last year to organizations that provide resources for our homeless population and work to reduce homelessness in Monterey County. Joining Hands is open every day except Sunday from 10:00 am-4:00 pm and is always looking for volunteers to staff two- or three-hour shifts.

Arlene Krebs

Social Action & Civic Engagement

<arlenekrebs123@gmail.com>

TODAH RABAH!

Thank you to those who have recently
given generously to
Congregation Beth Israel

LEROY KOHN ADULT EDUCATION FUND

in honor of

Dr. Uki Maroshek-Klarmann from Malina Breaux

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

in memory of

John & Ann Kaufman from Lois & David Epel

GENERAL DONATIONS

For CBI

From Michael & Debora Waxer

in honor of

the Shavuot Service from Joseph & Carol Mironov

Eiram Kelton becoming a Bar Mitzvah from Bee

Epstein-Shepherd

Calla Ruth Lyons being valedictorian of her class from
Bee Epstein-Shepherd

Robert Taylor Fletcher from Nancy Callahan

in memory of

Alvin Lakind, father of Rory Lakind, from Victor &
Sylvia Krimsley

Irene Lefkowitz on the occasion of her Yahrzeit from
Judy & Gary Simon

John & Ann Kaufman from Michael & Susan Newton

Peter Barotz, Naomi Pollack's father, from Michael &
Susan Newton

Tom's mother, Claire Krause from Thomas & Ellen
Krause

Joan Ott from Nancy Callahan

Lore Coe from Rosemary Lande

JEWISH FOOD FESTIVAL DONATIONS

for CBI

from Alan Lefkof & Ann Gordon

in honor of

River Gurtin from Bill Pardue & Barbara Mitchell

JEWISH FOOD FESTIVAL SPONSORSHIP

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Nancy Callahan

Alisa Fineman & Kimball Hurd

Ellyn Gelson

Harlan & Elizabeth Grogin

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Rosemary Lande

Judy Levin

Daniel & Beverly Nussbaum

Steven & Jennifer Prager

David Sabih & Anna Swartley

Hebrew Free Loan of San Francisco

Gary & Judy Simon

George & Lily Waissbluth

RABBI LEAH LEGACY FUND

in honor of

Rabbi Leah Novick and her wise counsel from Rabbi
Eli Cohen

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

in honor of

Malina Breaux, in support of Abrahams Tent, from
David Sabih & Anna Swartley

David Sabih and Anna Swartley, in support of
Abrahams Tent, from Malina Breaux

RACHAEL SAMMET CANTORIAL MUSIC FUND

For CBI

Stanley Mellin & Catherine Sheen

in honor of

Maya Felthoven becoming a Bat Mitzvah from
Michael & Susan Newton

in memory of

Cecil Spatz Goldhamer from Rena & Vic Feuerstein

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

in honor of

Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum from David Sabih & Anna
Swartley

Susan Greenbaum from David Sabih & Anna Swartley

I-HELP from Malina Breaux



Thank You to Our Oneg Hosts for the Month of June

June 2 – Friends and Family
of Maya Felthoven – In Honor of Maya becoming a
Bat Mitzvah

June 9 – Friends and Family of Eiram Kelton – In
Honor of Eiram becoming a Bar Mitzvah

June 16 – Bee Epstein-Shepherd in memory of Paul
Singer

June 23 – Friends and Family of Sierra Averbuch – In
Honor of Sierra becoming a Bat Mitzvah

June 30 – Matthew Schuss & Charlene Webber-
Schuss in Celebration of their June and July Birthdays.

If you would like to host an Oneg please call the CBI
office for available dates.



Meet Steven River Gurtin

River was born in Jersey City, New Jersey but spent his early school years unhappy with his surroundings and looking for a change. Not sure what he wanted to do with his life, he hitchhiked around the country in 1968. He had numerous adventures, even living for a time in Haight-Ashbury and northern California communes during the height of the hippy revolution.

Finally, River moved to Big Sur, where he lived and worked for the next two years. This is also where he received his spirit name “River” during a ceremony to inspire his persistence in pursuing his creative nature and honor his nurturing soul. River relocated to the Monterey Peninsula and attended business classes at Monterey Peninsula College. During this time River also performed as a mime in the Jan Kessler Mime Troupe along with his sister, the talented Andrea Carter. She came out from New Jersey to join the troupe. They performed together around the Monterey Peninsula and Berkeley. When the troupe ended, River began to consider opening a bagel bakery as his new career.

River immersed himself in the world of bagels. He traveled back to New York and New Jersey and apprenticed at some well-established bagel bakeries to learn the trade. While there he also met the love of his life, Diana Case, during a whirlwind romance. While it took a few years before Diana could come out to California, they formed a bond that would carry them together for the rest of their lives. Armed with a head full of knowledge and a book full of diagrams and drawings, River traveled back to Monterey and joined with a local educator and businessperson, Bill Leone. The new partnership began to build the first bagel

bakery on the Monterey Peninsula. The business opened in 1976 and quickly earned praise and a strong local following.

During this time, River became a member of Congregation Beth Israel when it was located in Monterey. He was glad to re-establish his Jewish identity and connect with the Jewish community. River continued to work hard to build his bagel business. More stores were built, and the business continued to grow. River went on to establish a bagel consulting business and trained people throughout the country to open their own bagel bakeries.

When it was time to sell their interest in the bagel business River looked around for his next passion. He spent some time being a photographer, winning awards for his efforts, but, in 2001, when the 9/11 World Trade Center disaster occurred, River knew he had to help. He joined his wife Diana in volunteering with the Red Cross, traveling to New York to assist. When that disaster settled down, River continued volunteering with the Red Cross with an additional 12 deployments to help with other national disasters, including Hurricane Katrina. River also took a leadership role with the local chapter, becoming a trainer, a client casework supervisor and serving as Disaster Chair. During this time he also served on the Board of CBI’s Jewish Food Festival, first as a director in charge of purchasing and then as a “Captain of Captains.” River really enjoyed his involvement with CBI’s Board of Trustees and the annual creation of CBI’s justly famous Jewish Food Festival.

In 2015, River was diagnosed with an aggressive form of prostate cancer. Long years followed with various treatments and medications, including an experimental drug treatment program at Stanford. Throughout, River kept his positive attitude, and supported by his loving wife, did what was needed to maintain his health.

During the pandemic, River took up jogging most mornings and discovered that his creative spirit had returned when he began to create poetry while he jogged. He ultimately produced two books of his photography/poetry.

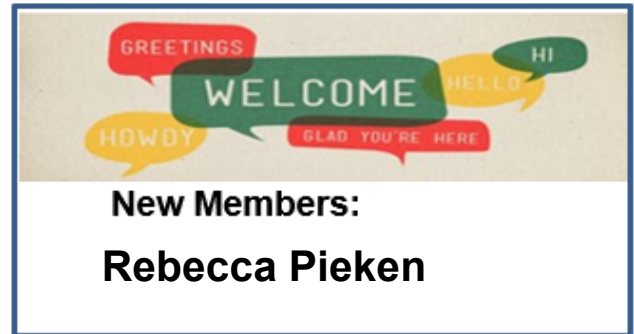
Recently River and Diana sold their Monterey home and settled in at The Park Lane, a senior retirement community. River still attends services at CBI when he can, sometimes by Zoom and other times in person.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jun 17	Lorraine Gerstl
July 1	Judy Simon
2	Charlene Webber-Schuss
2	Beck Lande
4	Oscar Biblarz
4	Wendy Fried
8	Marilyn Bloom
9	Joel Jacobson
10	Alice Croudo
10	Margaret Goodman
11	Jade Granbery
13	Carlos Ramirez
13	Gracie Meiggs
13	Lenny Popky
14	Adina Abeles
14	Bee Epstein-Shepherd
14	Rafael Lyons
14	Jan Hurwitz
15	Susan Krome Neben
16	Cele Passin
17	Shelagh Baseman
18	Christopher Chambers
20	Sheila Kaplan
20	Judi Lang
20	Susan Simon
21	Angelica Blatt
21	Jennifer Stone
22	Michael Krasner
22	Wendy Cohn
23	Andrew Sisolak
26	David Awerbuck
28	Beverly Nussbaum
29	Michael Leo Tamler
31	Nico Vitiello
31	Beryl Levinger

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!


Todd Hornik & Donna Shore	4
Howard Messinger & Leta McCarty Messinger	7
Richard & Marilyn Bloom	9
Joel & Bonni Weinstein	10
Jill & Jim Sleeper	11
Martin & Karen Wiskoff	12
Eric & Judi Lang	15
Leonid & Larisa Modorsky	17
Alan & Lyn Rosen	20
Barry & Nancy Rund	29



Family News



We mourn the loss of long-time member Ruth Hartmann, Peter Barotz, father of Naomi Pollack, and Edward Corpuz, brother of Tricia Popky. May their memories be for a blessing.

Our Congregation strives to offer love and support to fellow congregants in times of joy and celebration, as well as in times of trouble and sorrow. One of the ways we do this is to let the congregation know your news. Please let us know if there is a simcha or a wish of encouragement or condolence that can be shared. You can send this information to shalomcbi@carmelbethisrael.org to be included in the Shofar.



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Chartered in 1954 as the Jewish Community of the Monterey Peninsula, Congregation Beth Israel today serves the spiritual, educational, and social needs of Jews on the Peninsula. We derive programming and administrative strength from our affiliation with the Union for Reform Judaism and offer traditional programming to meet the needs of Jews on the Monterey Peninsula. The Congregation sponsors weekly worship services and Torah study on Shabbat; observances of all holidays and festivals; and formal educational programs. We operate our own school on weekend mornings, and we also maintain a Judaic library.

Clergy & Staff

Bruce Greenbaum - *Rabbi, D.D. & Director of Education*

Alisa Fineman – *Cantor &*

Asst Director of Education

Julie Chase- *Executive Director*

Abby King- *Administrative Assistant/Facility Use Coordinator*

Charlotte Salomon- *Dir. Membership Development & Engagement*

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2022-23

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Herb Stern, *Honorary Life Trustee*

Parshiot

July 1, Chukat-Balak

T: Numbers 19:1-25:9

H: Judges 11:1-33

July 8, Pinchas

T: Numbers 25:10-30:1

H: 1 Kings 18:46-19:21

July 15, Matot-Masei

T: Numbers 30:2-36:13

H: Jeremiah 1:1-2:2

July 22, Devarim

T: Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22

H: Isaiah 1:1-27

July 29, Va'etchanan

T: Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11

H: Isaiah 40:1-26