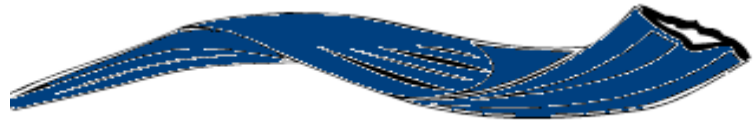


# SHOFAR



Monthly Newsletter of the Monterey Peninsula Jewish Community

[www.carmelbethisrael.org](http://www.carmelbethisrael.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV  
1

Fundraiser for Jewish  
Federation

NOV  
5

Zumba  
Also, on November 12

NOV  
11

Blue Suede Jews II

NOV  
15

Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class  
Begins

NOV  
18

Jew-ish Trivia & Potluck  
Dinner

DEC  
7

Hacienda Hannukah

DEC  
8

CBI Community Chanukah  
Celebration

APR  
6

CBI 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala

**On October 7, 2023, more than 1300 Israelis  
were massacred by Hamas. May their  
memories be for a blessing.**

At the rising sun and at its going down;  
We remember them.

At the blowing of the wind and in the  
chill of winter; We remember them.

At the opening of the buds and in the  
rebirth of spring; We remember them.

At the blueness of the skies and in the  
warmth of summer; We remember  
them.

At the rustling of the leaves and in the  
beauty of the autumn; We remember  
them.

At the beginning of the year and when  
it ends; We remember them.

As long as we live, they too will live, for  
they are now a part of us as We  
remember them.

*We Remember Them by Sylvan Kamens & Rabbi Jack  
Riemer*



## From the Rabbi's Desk

This is not the Shofar message I hoped to share. My original message talked about seeing God in everyone we meet and treating everyone with kindness. But then Hamas attacked. As I write this, over 1200 Israelis have been slaughtered. Over 3000 have been wounded.

Approximately 150 people have been captured and forced into Gaza. This was not a military action. Hamas did not attack military targets. They attacked towns and *kibbutzim*. They murdered more than 260 young people attending a music festival in celebration of *Sukkot*. IDF units who liberated Israel's south found babies shot dead in their cribs. Some babies and children were decapitated. Some of the hostages have been savagely raped.

There can be no excuses for these atrocities. There is no defense of Hamas' actions. Those who try to justify the attack are simply wrong. One reporter stated that Hamas is fighting for a better life for those living in Gaza. That is simply not true. Hamas cares nothing about the Palestinians living in Gaza. For almost 20 years, they have used billions in foreign aid to build tunnels and amass weapons, not to improve the lives of Palestinians. They use civilians as human shields. They place rocket launchers in school playgrounds and on the rooftops of apartment buildings. They force Israelis to attack residential neighborhoods and then cynically accuse Israel of striking civilian targets. Those living in Gaza are not allowed to speak out against the Hamas leadership under threat of death. Just read the Hamas charter-- their main goal, which has never changed, is to kill Jews and destroy Israel.

The weeks and months ahead are going to be extremely painful. Israel will do the world—and the Palestinian people-- a favor by destroying Hamas and ending their brutal regime. But in doing so, many Palestinian civilians will suffer and some will die. While Israel never purposely targets civilians, civilians will be killed as they will be used by Hamas as human shields. But there is a huge difference between Israel and Hamas. Israel cherishes human life. Israel's goal is to free both Israeli citizens and Palestinian citizens from Hamas' tyranny.

Sadly, many around us will not understand or make the distinction between Israel's actions and the brutality of Hamas. Please join me in reminding them that the difference is simple. Israelis, the IDF, and Jews around the world cherish all human life. Hamas stands for hatred and destruction. We, unlike Hamas, pray for peace and wellbeing for all. We grieve today for our brothers and sisters in Israel after the most barbaric assault on Jews since the Holocaust. We acknowledge all the suffering that will arise out of Hamas' savage assault, and, as Jews, we dedicate ourselves anew to a strong and secure Israel living in peace with its neighbors and to a better future for all people in the Middle East and beyond.

May God continue to watch over Israel and protect the IDF soldiers as they fight to stop those who do not value life. Amen.



## From Cantor Alisa

Dear Friends, I struggle to find a place to begin as extremists around the world are creating such profound loss and pain. On *Simchat Torah*, the "season of our joy", we were horrified and stunned as we learned of Hamas's brutal attack on innocent civilians in Israel, declaring war.

But, on Sunday morning at Congregation Beth Israel, Rabbi Bruce insisted that Hamas would not deter or come between us and our holy gatherings. Reeling with shock, we showed up in great numbers to hold services and bless our new and youngest students as they stood beneath a great prayer shawl, receiving tiny Torah scrolls. As our adults took our holy scrolls from the ark we paraded around the sanctuary, singing songs to celebrate the gift of Torah to our people and to the world. Forming a great circle, congregants gently held and supported the parchment as Rabbi Bruce began unrolling the Torah around our sanctuary. Chanting from the end of Torah—the end of *Moshe's* life and leadership in *D'varim* (Deuteronomy)—we immediately moved to the very beginning as our soon-to-be Bar Mitzvah, Richie Baguio, chanted the first day of creation from *B'reisheet* (Genesis).

From where I stood and sang on the *bima* that morning, I could see every shining face, every child's smile, the pride our parents take in their children, the beauty and strength of our intergenerational congregation, and our dear Rabbi bravely holding it all together. This day set aside for joy, for potential and new beginnings, will now carry with it the memory of a nightmare. How do we do it? How is it possible to hold such mixed and contradictory emotions? Rebbe Nachman of Breztlav taught, "The whole world is a very narrow bridge; the most essential thing is not to be afraid." For me, this means that we must not be paralyzed by fear or despair when our world becomes a dangerous place. And so, we show up like we did on *Simchat Torah*, and at our community vigil later that evening. We do it together, pour out our feelings through prayer, care for each other, educate one another, donate to righteous causes, work to end tyranny, and continue to love, celebrate and talk with our children.

There is a midrash that at the end of the sixth day, when Adam and Eve were created, Adam became frightened as it grew dark, because he had never seen darkness before. He started to weep and cry, and Eve came over and just sat right across from him, and she cried all night long with him until the break of dawn. This powerful image reminds us that dawn will come, that there is always light in the world, even after we experience the deepest darkness. And it's our job, as human

beings, to remind each other that we need one another and that we're not alone—to sit with one another when times are hard, when we are sad or scared, until dawn breaks, and we are ready and able to walk toward the light.

*Oseh shalom bimromav*—You who are capable of making peace in the highest places, please help awaken the peacemaker in our highest selves, so we can make peace with those around us and be true partners in the continuum of creation, not destruction, here and everywhere on earth. And we say: Amen.

-Cantor Alisa Fineman



## Hesed Academy News

October was a wonderful first full month of Hesed Academy! Students made *sukkah* decorations for *Sukkot*, danced with the *Torah* for *Simchat Torah*, welcomed our newest community

members in Consecration, sang songs, braided *challah*, listened to stories, made new friends, and had meaningful lessons and discussions in their classrooms. We can't wait for all the fun November has in store!

Hesed Academy will be in session on Sunday, November 5, 12, and 19. There will be **no class on November 26** for Thanksgiving Break. Classes will resume on Sunday, December 3. Please enjoy this time with your family!

### November Specialty Class Schedule

November 5: Art

November 12: Music

November 19: Storytelling

### Class Dinner

The 6/7 Grade Class Dinner will be Friday evening, November 3 at CBI. The dinner will start at 5:15 followed by the 6 PM Service. We are looking forward to having the sixth- and seventh-grade students and their families come together as a community!

### New Dates for I-HELP Dinners

Hesed Academy classes take the responsibility of supporting I-HELP (The Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program) by providing a nutritious dinner and breakfast items during the Religious school year. The responsibility is assigned by grade level and coordinated by the room parent, teachers, and me. During your child's class time, students will discuss the I-HELP program and the mitzvot of helping those in need, feeding the hungry and sheltering the homeless. The children will then help to set the tables and prepare the breakfast and lunch bags. Parents and their child can participate with the shopping and preparation of the meal which is beneficial to help them to understand and to actualize service for those who are less fortunate. In the evening, parent volunteers will help serve the meal.

There have been some changes to religious school involvement in I-HELP, and subsequently the dates have been changed. There will be no Hesed Academy-sponsored I-HELP meal in November. The new schedule of dates is:

**December 3, 2023 - Second/Third Grade**

**January 7, 2024 - Kindergarten/1st Grade**

**February 4, 2024 - Aleynu**

**March 3, 2024 - Fourth/Fifth Grade**

**April 7, 2024 - Sixth/Seventh Grade**

Thank you so much for your assistance in making this an eye-opening and meaningful experience for our students.

### Aleynu

Our teen program, *Aleynu*, is off to a great start! We have enjoyed playing games, getting to know each other, and choosing a social action project. This month will only have one *Aleynu* meeting, which will take place on Sunday, November 12 from 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm, and will include a free pizza lunch.

I am thankful to be part of such a beautiful and supportive community. Wishing you all a wonderful month!

Sophie Little



## Zumba for All Seasons!

Zumba meets on **Sunday, November 5 and 12 at 3:00 pm** and we will announce our holiday schedule soon.

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 the three-month period from October through December 2023. Register online at or just show up on Sunday afternoons--all ages and fitness levels welcome!

<https://www.carmelbethisrael.org/event/zumba-at-cbi2.html>





## Lunch with our Clergy

Join Cantor Alisa Fineman for Lunch with the Clergy this month on **Wednesday, November 8 at noon** at Baja Cantina, located about a mile east of CBI. Our conversation will focus around the wells from which Rebecca drew water for Yitzchak and his camels in this week's Torah portion Chayei Sarah, and what it means for us to go down into the well of our own lives, drawing from the reservoirs of hope, love, grace and courage.

Let us know you're coming at

<https://www.carmelbethisrael.org/event/lunch-with-the-clergy2.html> or call the CBI office at 831-624-2015 to RSVP--we will order off Baja Cantina's regular menu so lunch will cost approximately \$20-\$25.



Back by popular demand, on **Saturday evening, November 11, at 7:00 pm**, Richie Unterberger will return to CBI to present Blue Suede Jews II, a continuing exploration of Jewish musicians and other Jewish contributors to the music industry.

As a sequel to his previous presentation on Jews in early rock, music historian and author Richie Unterberger presents "Blue Suede Jews Part 2." He'll show and discuss film clips of major Jewish rock performers of the 1960s and 1970s such as Lou Reed, Bob Dylan, Simon & Garfunkel, Carole King, Leonard Cohen, Peter Green of the original Fleetwood Mac, Manfred Mann, Randy Newman, and other surprises. This will feature entirely different material from the first program of "Blue Suede Jews" he presented at CBI last year. This event is free but please let us know you are coming at <https://www.carmelbethisrael.org/event/blue-suede-jews-ii.html>



## BEST YEARS

### Lunch at China Delight

It's been too long since our Best Years group has enjoyed a nice lunch together. Let's all meet at China

Delight in the Crossroads on **Wednesday, November 15 at noon**. If you want to enjoy this **FREE** lunch, let us know at <https://www.carmelbethisrael.org/event/best-years-chinese-lunch.html> or call the CBI office by Monday, November 13. Everyone attending will also be encouraged to share their favorite Jewish joke! All our Best Years events are supported by our Senior Endowment Fund.



### Sign up for our Adult B'nai Mitzvah Program

Committing yourself to the *mitzvot* at the tender age of 13 may not have been your path--life and holy moments are rarely predictable. It is my hope that the sacred *Torah* we study together in our upcoming Adult B'nai Mitzvah program will light the way for each of you as you travel your own path of spiritual discovery and growth.

Beginning on **Wednesday evening, November 15 at 7:15 pm** and continuing into June 2024, join Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum every other Wednesday evening (with some calendaring exceptions!) from 7:15 pm - 9:00 pm when the Rabbi will lead discussions on Living Judaism, Jewish liturgy, Hebrew reading, and Bible lessons.

Each class will begin with a short lesson on that week's *Torah* portion and an aspect of general Jewish living. The second half of the evening will focus on learning how to read our Hebrew prayers. This wonderful program will conclude in June with an adult *B'nai Mitzvah* service where our participants will assist in leading our morning *Shabbat* service, including, at his or her option, the opportunity to chant from the *Torah*.

This class is open to CBI members who wish to become Adult *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah* or simply want to further their Jewish learning. Even if you led a *Bar Mitzvah* service as a child, this class will stimulate and educate.

There is no fee for our Adult *B'nai Mitzvah* Program but there will be a materials cost. Please contact the Rabbi at 831-624-2015 if you are interested in participating.



## Terrific Trivia, Potluck Dinner,& Fun!

Join us **Saturday evening, November 18 at 6:00 pm** as we welcome back New York Trivia Master Liotte Greenbaum. Bring your family. Put together a team. Invite your *Chavurah*. Liotte will lead a fun-filled “Jewish” Trivia evening, starting at 6:00 pm with a potluck dinner. Bring something you like to eat and enough to share with others--let’s keep everything vegetarian. Main dishes, side dishes, salads, and desserts are all needed!

Please RSVP by Wednesday, November 15 at <https://www.carmelbethisrael.org/event/jew-ish-trivia-night--potluck-dinner.html> or call the CBI office at 831-624-2015 to. If families with young children plan to attend, CBI will provide babysitters for the Trivia portion of this evening—please let us know when you sign up. We all had so much fun during our prior Trivia evenings—let’s do it again!



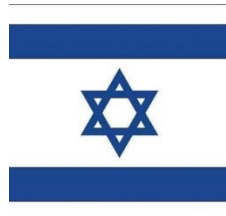
## CBI Women’s Book Club

Here are our next dates and book selections:

For location information, please email [wiskoff@aol.com](mailto:wiskoff@aol.com).

**November 14, 2023, 1:30 pm** -- THE HILLTOP by Assaf Gavron

**December 12, 1:30 pm**-- CASTE: THE ORIGINS OF OUR DISCONTENTS by Isabel Wilkerson



## JEWISH MOMS OF MONTEREY ARE INVITED TO: BRING YOUR OWN BOARD FOR ISRAEL

**Sunday November 5,  
10:00am to Noon**  
Ilene Cantor’s House  
7045 Valley Greens Circle  
Carmel, CA 93923

Here’s what you do:

- Bring your own cutting board
- I provide the fruit, cheese, nuts, pretzels, candy etc
- We create the boards together – you bring it home to enjoy

**RSVP by 11/3 to: 810.625.0842 (TEXT) OR [ILENECANTOR@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ILENECANTOR@GMAIL.COM)** if



you can come or not so I can have an accurate count of what to buy. It’s right after CBI Hesed drop off and is a chance to come together, talk, eat, and give each other support. Let’s lift each other up. **Suggested Donation: \$36** - ALL Funds go to Magen David Adam. Am Yisrael Chai!!!! Ilene



**Please contact the CBI office to add your ad to our monthly Shofar**





## CBI Interest-Free Loan

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, CBI continues to offer interest-free loans of up to \$500 to CBI members for personal or professional needs. Please contact the CBI office at 831-624-2015 for the simple one-page loan application; all requests are strictly confidential. CBI is committed to the continuing support of all its members during these challenging times.



**Insure the future of CBI by leaving a gift in your will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance policy.**



## Chanukah is Coming Save These Dates!

**Friday, December 8**, join us for CBI's annual Chanukah Celebration. Stay tuned for more information about dinner, games, and prizes.

**On Thursday, December 7,**

Hacienda Hay & Feed presents

# Hanukkah at Hacienda

7180 Carmel Valley Rd  
from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

December  
Thursday

Entry is  
**Free**

Latkes  
Jelly Donuts  
Trivia  
Live Music  
Candle Lighting

With:  
Congregation Beth Israel  
Chabad of Monterey  
Hidden Hills Brewing

Food & drink for purchase  
Family friendly  
Open community event

*light up the night!*

For more information:  
hello@haciendavc.com




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Lawson Garrett Marshall	7
Debra Burdman	7
Joel Weinstein	8
Leonard Chodosh	9
Ellen G. Krause	9
Bennett Goldberg	10
Maya Felthoven	12
Jay Pack	13
Laurie Kleinman	13
Carl Weiner	13
Debra Givner	14
Brynie Kaplan-Dau	14
Serena Bergsma	17
Louise Riddell-Kaufman	17
Charlotte Salomon	17
Lyn Rosen	17
Jonathan Burke	18
Debra Burke	20
Chinanit Kershner	23
Eli Granbery	23
Laura Heller	24
Jessica Fenton	25
Alex Bordetsky	27
Tilden Sun-Suslow	27
Stuart S. Pressman	28
Craig Paull	28



Jeffrey & Marian Sosnick	2
Jessica & Michael Croudo	8
Chad & Sara Hinds	9
Julie & Stuart Chase	12
Dan & Ellen Weiner	19
Daniel & Laura Lewis	25
Lee & Sheree Goldman	25
Michael & Susan Newton	27



### New CBI Members:

Stephanie Wittels Wachs & Michael Wachs  
Frederica & Sam Westmoreland  
Edmond Howser  
Anne Greene

## Family News

**Mazel Tov on the wedding of Malina  
Breaux's son Ian Anderson to Erika  
Anderson-Sha on Sunday, October 15,  
2023**

*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 you wish to share (or know someone else's that they are willing to share), or a wish of encouragement or condolence that can be shared. You can send this information to [shalomcbi@carmelbethisrael.org](mailto:shalomcbi@carmelbethisrael.org) to be included in the Shofar.*

# High Holy Days 2023 - Thank You!

Our Rabbi challenges us to be generous and inclusive in our hearts and actions, encourages us to return to G-d's teachings in order to make a just world, and sets the stage for soul searching, introspection, and re-evaluation.

Our Cantor invites us to return, to restore wholeness and peace, and thus return to the land of our souls.

Together the prayers and song strike a deep chord within us and awaken our spirituality.

They are surrounded by a host of beautiful voices and instruments to further enhance the beautiful delivery of their messages.

We as a congregation lend a hand with our participation and our presence as we pray as one.

The worship committee is grateful for all of those who participate in making our High Holy Days experiences meaningful and rich. We would like to thank:

Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum for being our rock, our driving force, and our moral compass;

Cantor Alisa Fineman for her breathtaking voice and musicianship, unending spirit, and beautiful source of spirituality;

Rabbi Jeff Schulman for skillfully guiding us through the Yom Kippur Mincha/afternoon service;

Pauline Troia and Kimball Hurd for their extremely talented musical accompaniment;

Our High Holy Days choir composed of Diana Rosenthal, Laura Arnow, and Cara Lieb for their lovely voices and harmonies;

Michelle Djokic for her deeply moving cello rendition of Kol Nidre;

Rabbi Jeff Schulman and Cantor Alisa Fineman for leading the presentations on Selichot;

Cantorial student Elizabeth Baseman for her gifted voice on Shabbat Shuvah and during Neilah services on Yom Kippur;

Beryl Levinger for leading the discussion on Yom Kippur;

President Malina Breau for her announcements and address;

Charlotte Salomon for her appeal to support Congregation Beth Israel and Israel through ARZA;

The Torah chanters for their dedication to learning and chanting the High Holy Day trope;

This year's chanters were: Cara Lieb, Vic Krimsley, Susan Newton, Richie Baguio, Marshal Blatt, River Mello, Zia Shapiro, Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum, Laura Arnow, Cantor Alisa Fineman, Lorraine Gerstl, Seth Pollack, Galena Bordetsky, David Awerbuck, Pauline Troia, Daniel Nussbaum, and Sylvia Krimsley.

The Haftarah readers and those who gave the Haftarah blessings;

This year's Haftarah readers and chanters were: Rosemary Lande, Cantor Alisa Fineman and David Sabih.

The Haftarah blessings were given by Jane Bednar, Rosemary Lande and Vic Krimsley.

Rabbi Joe Charnes for blowing the shofar;

Beryl Levinger for her presentation on Day 2 of Rosh Hashanah;

The honorees who held the Torah aloft, recited the Aliyot blessings, lit the candles, led the V'ahavta, and led the Kiddush;

Julie Chase, Abby King, Bob Fenton, and Charlotte Salomon for their supporting efforts.

Today Rabah, thank you so much.

Sylvia Krimsley, Chair of the CBI Worship Committee



Hacienda Hay & Feed presents

# ***Hanukkah at Hacienda***

7180 Carmel Valley Rd  
from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Entry is  
***Free***

December  
Thursday  
**7**

Latkes  
Jelly Donuts  
Trivia  
Live Music  
Candle Lighting

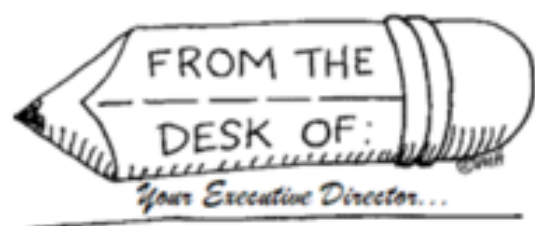
With:  
Congregation Beth Israel  
Chabad of Monterey  
Hidden Hills Brewing

Food & drink for purchase  
Family friendly  
Open community event

*light up the  
night!*

For more information:  
[hello@haciendacv.com](mailto:hello@haciendacv.com)





During this difficult time our community has much to be proud of. The overwhelming support for the Jewish Federations of North America Israel Emergency Fund was inspiring and, with the support of our generous matching donor, we were able to contribute over \$100,000 to this important cause.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Abby King, our amazing office manager. During the last ten years most of you have had the pleasure of working with Abby and know of the innumerable contributions she has made to CBI day in and day out. Abby has been the glue that literally holds our building and our office together. As Abby and her family make the long-awaited move to Arizona, we will both miss her and wish her all the best.

Many of you know the delightful and accomplished Donna Shore. Donna has agreed to be our interim office manager as we fine-tune the job description and look for the right person to fill some very large shoes.

Have you met our new Education Coordinator, Sophie Little?



In her own words: Sophie is so excited to join CBI as the new Education Coordinator of Hesed Academy! Sophie grew up in Tallahassee, Florida, where she enjoyed being involved in her small synagogue

congregation and spending summers at Camp Ramah Darom in Georgia. After earning her Bachelor's degree in environmental biology at Barnard College in New York City, Sophie spent time working at Hava v'Adam Eco-Educational Farm in Modi'in, Israel. Returning to the states, Sophie taught at outdoor science schools all around Northern California. She then returned to school to earn her Teaching Credential and Masters in Education from the University of the Pacific. Sophie taught elementary school for 7 years, and especially loved teaching first grade at All Saints Day School, just down the street from CBI! Sophie lives in Pacific Grove, and when not at CBI, she enjoys spending time exploring this beautiful peninsula with her 1.5-year-old son, Theodore, and her husband Jason.



To the Monterey Peninsula Jewish Community.

I'm Neil Cantor. My wife Ilene and I want to proudly show our

community that we support Israel. We are creating a fundraiser for "Magen David Adom" by selling 18" x 24" yard signs that say "We Support Israel"

The signs cost \$36 each and 100% of profits will be donated to "Magen David Adom"

For those of you living in an HOA... you are allowed to put a sign such as this in your yard under CA Civil Code section 4710(a).

If you're interested, please text me at (810) 423-4446 or Ilene at (810) 625-0842.

Am Yisroel Chai ♥ ILIL  
Neil



## What's Jewish about Thanksgiving? Lots!

By Rabbi Eric Eisenkramer from ReformJudaism.org

One day in late November a few years ago I ran into a congregant in the hallway of the temple. She wished me a Happy Thanksgiving. Then she said: "Oh wait a minute. I didn't mean to offend you. Do you celebrate Thanksgiving?" I replied: "Of course! Jews celebrate Thanksgiving." She laughed, a little embarrassed, and I wished her a Happy Thanksgiving too.

There are strong historical connections between Judaism and Thanksgiving. Most of the Pilgrims who celebrated the first Thanksgiving were Puritans, a branch of the Protestant faith. The Puritans strongly identified with the historical traditions and customs of the Israelites in the Bible.

In their quest for religious freedom, the Puritans viewed their journey to America as exactly analogous to the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. England was Egypt, the king was Pharaoh, the Atlantic Ocean their Red Sea, and the Puritans were the Israelites, entering into a new covenant with God in a new Promised Land. In fact, most of the Puritans had Hebrew names and there was even a proposal to make Hebrew the language of the colonies!

Many people believe that the Pilgrims modeled Thanksgiving after the holiday of Sukkot, as they are both harvest festivals that take place in the fall. In Jewish tradition, Sukkot has a dual significance: historical and agricultural. We dwell in booths to remember how our ancestors lived in sukkot for 40 years in the desert. However, the Torah also refers to Sukkot as *chag ha'asif*, the Festival of the Ingathering. At this time of year in Israel, the harvest was ending and the final fruits and crops were gathered and stored. Sukkot is also known as *z'man simchateinu*, the time of our rejoicing, as our ancestors gave thanks for the conclusion of the harvest and the bounty of the land.

As close readers of the Bible, the Puritans would have known about Sukkot which may have inspired them to

celebrate Thanksgiving. As Rabbi Elias Lieberman, leader of the Falmouth Jewish Congregation in Massachusetts, put it in this news article:

While we cannot be certain about what motivated those Pilgrim settlers to initiate a feast of thanksgiving, it is likely that they consciously drew on a model well-known to them from the Bible they cherished. Seeing themselves as new Israelites in a new "promised land," the Pilgrims surely found inspiration in the Bible, in the Books of Leviticus and Deuteronomy, in which God commands the ancient Israelites to observe the Feast of Booths—in Hebrew, Sukkot, "To rejoice before Adonai your God" at the time of the fall harvest.

Of course the main theme of the holiday of Thanksgiving comes from the name itself, reminding us of the importance of giving thanks. Saying "thank you" is a primary Jewish value. When a Jew sits down to eat, he or she says: "Blessed are you God, for bringing bread from the earth." To say a blessing over bread affirms that God played a role in creating the universe where the sun rises each day and the rain falls and the growth of food is possible.

The rabbis taught that we are to say 100 blessings a day. This teaching reminds us that no matter how difficult life can be, we all have many blessings such as simply being alive, our health, our loved ones, and friends.

Traditionally we reach the 100 blessings by praying the three daily services plus reciting the blessings before and after we eat. However the rabbis also suggested a few special blessing for us to acknowledge the wonders of everyday.

Upon seeing lightning, one may say: "Blessed are you God, who made the world." When you see the ocean, you can say: "Blessed are you God, who made the great sea." And upon seeing fruit trees in bloom, one may say: "Blessed are you God, who leaves nothing lacking in the world, who created good creatures and beautiful trees, for the benefit of all people."

What about the other 97 blessings? I might suggest that we offer the following words: "Baruch atah Adonai, Blessed are you God," and then insert whatever we have to be thankful for – our family, our friends, our food, our homes, our country, our Jewish State, our synagogue, and any of the myriad of blessings in our lives.

From the historical connections of the Puritans to Sukkot and the Torah, to the primary importance in Judaism of saying thank you to God for all our blessings, Thanksgiving is a holiday steeped in Jewish values.

On this Thanksgiving, when we are gathered around the table, I might suggest that we offer a special blessing: "Baruch atah Adonai, Blessed are you God, who has given us the bounty of food and the blessing of family."



# TODAH RABAH!

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

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*(These are the names of our generous donors who contributed through CBI. We know that many more of you donated directly to the designated funds. We are unable to list your names here but deeply appreciate your contributions.)*

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The lives lost in Israel because of anti-Semitism.  
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our granddaughter Maya from Lara & Dan Brotslaw  
David Sabih and Anna Swartley from Todd & Veena Waldman

### **in memory of**

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our 55th Wedding Anniversary from Michael & Constance Kean

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## **Thank you to our Oneg Hosts for Last Month**

**October 6 – Friends & Family of River Mello – In celebration of River becoming a Bar Mitzvah**

**October 13 – Friends & Family of Richie Baguio – In celebration of Richie becoming a Bar Mitzvah**

**October 27 – Abby King, with much gratitude and joy for my time spent with Congregation Beth Israel**

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

You may host in honor or memory of someone special to you or in gratitude or honor of a special occasion or life cycle event.

Please help us keep this tradition alive. It's easy, it's fun and very much appreciated.

Call the CBI office to schedule your Oneg at 831-624-2015.




**A generous CBI donor offered to match any contributions to the Israel Emergency Fund from our community. CBI stepped up! You raised more than \$50,000 in 48 hours. THANK YOU to this wonderful community!**

# CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

NOVEMBER 2023 • CHESHVAN/KISLEV 5784



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>29 Cheshvan 14</p> <p>9:30am Hesed Academy 12:30pm Aleynu 3:00pm CBI Speaker Series - Prof. Eran Kaplan 3:00pm Zumba at CBI</p>	<p>30 Cheshvan</p>	<p>31 Cheshvan 16</p>	<p>1 Cheshvan 17</p> <p>6:00pm JFNA Fundraiser</p>	<p>2 Cheshvan 18</p>	<p>3 Cheshvan 19</p> <p>6:00pm Family Shabbat with Birthday Blessings</p>	<p>4 Vayera Cheshvan</p> <p>10:00am B'nai Mitzvah Shabbat 10:30am Shabbat Torah Study</p>
<p>5 Cheshvan 21</p> <p>9:30am Hesed Academy 3:00pm Zumba at CBI 4:30pm I-HELP Men-assisted by grades 4 &amp; 5</p>	<p>6 Cheshvan</p>	<p>7 Cheshvan 23</p>	<p>8 Cheshvan 24</p> <p>12:00pm Lunch with the Clergy</p>	<p>9 Cheshvan 25</p>	<p>10 Cheshvan 26</p> <p>7:30pm Erev Shabbat Service</p>	<p>11 Chayei Sara Veterans Day</p> <p>10:30am Shabbat Torah Study 7:00pm Blue Suede Shoes II</p>
<p>12 Cheshvan 28</p> <p>9:30am Hesed Academy 12:30pm Aleynu 12:30pm Hesed Academy Youth Choir Rehearsal 3:00 Zumba</p>	<p>13 Cheshvan</p>	<p>14 Rosh Chodesh Kislev</p> <p>6:30pm CBI Executive Committee Meeting</p>	<p>15 Kislev 2</p> <p>12:00pm Best Years Chinese Lunch 7:15pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Program</p>	<p>16 Kislev 3</p>	<p>17 Kislev 4</p> <p>7:30pm Erev Shabbat Service</p>	<p>18 Toldot Kislev</p> <p>10:30am Shabbat Torah Study 6:00pm Jew-ish Trivia Night &amp; Potluck Dinner</p>
<p>19 Kislev 6</p> <p>9:30am Hesed Academy 12:30pm Faculty Lunch</p>	<p>20 Kislev 7</p>	<p>21 Kislev 8</p>	<p>22 Kislev 9</p>	<p>23 Kislev 10</p> <p>7:30pm Erev Shabbat Service with Anniversary Blessings</p>	<p>24 Thanksgiving Friday</p>	<p>25 Vayetzei Kislev</p> <p>10:30am Shabbat Torah Study</p>
<p>26 Kislev 13</p>	<p>27 Kislev 14</p>	<p>28 Kislev 15</p> <p>7:00pm CBI Board of Trustees Meeting</p>	<p>29 Kislev 16</p> <p>7:15pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Program</p>	<p>30 Kislev 17</p>	<p>1 Kislev 18</p> <p>6:00pm Family Shabbat with Birthday Blessings</p>	<p>2 Vayishlach Kislev</p> <p>10:00am B'nai Mitzvah Shabbat 10:30am Shabbat Torah Study</p>





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Alisa Fineman – *Cantor &*

*Asst Director of Education*

Julie Chase- *Executive Director*

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## **Parshiot**

**November 4, Vayera**

**T: Genesis 18:1-22:24**

**H: II Kings 4:1-37**

**November 11: Chaye Sarah**

**T: Genesis 23:1-25:18**

**H: I Kings 1:1-31**

**November 18, Toldot**

**T: Genesis 25:19-28:9**

**H: Malachi 1:1-2:7**

**November 25, Vayetze**

**T: Genesis 28:10-32:3**

**H: Hosea 12:13-14:10**