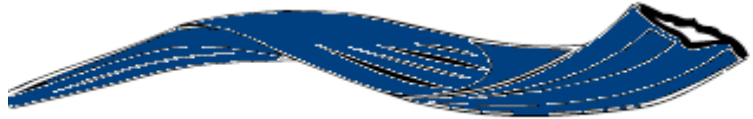


SHOFAR



Monthly Newsletter of the Monterey Peninsula Jewish Community

www.carmelbethisrael.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

**APR
2**

**Hesed Academy Model
Seder**

**APR
6**

**CBI 2nd Night Community
Seder**

**APR
15**

Jewish Trivia Night

**APR
18**

**Yom HaShoah Film &
Speaker**

**APR
30**

Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration

**MAY
6**

**Havdalah on the Beach for
Lag B'Omer**

**MAY
13**

**"We Are All in This
Together" by Daniel Troia**



2nd Night Community Seder at CBI

We are delighted to host our congregation's Community Passover Seder once again. It will be held the second night of Passover, **Thursday, April 6 at 6:00 pm**, in our CBI Social Hall. This delicious dinner and Seder is led by Rabb Dinn. **SOLD OUT** Fineman. matz filte fish, m sauce

and potatoes, vegetables, and dessert. Vegetarian and kids' meals are also available. \$55 for adults, \$25 for students and active military, and free for children 12 and under. **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**



Join The Trivia Craze and Enjoy a Community Potluck!

CBI is hosting a Jewish Trivia Night and Community Potluck Dinner on **Saturday evening, April 15 at 6 pm**. 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.) After a short Havdalah service for the entire family, New York Trivia Master Liotte Greenbaum leads a fun-filled Jewish Trivia night. Do you know Jewish foods? Jewish actors? Jewish history? Jewish places? Then you won't want to miss this event!

Continued on page 7.



From the Rabbi's Desk...

I love the State of Israel. I support the State of Israel. And, because of my deep and lifelong commitment to the Jewish state, I cannot support Israel's leadership at this time. Led by Prime Minister Netanyahu, the future of Israel's democracy is seriously threatened. Our Jewish homeland must remain a democracy that is just for all her inhabitants. Israel cannot be seen as a Jewish homeland if they destroy their judiciary or ignore the rights of non-Orthodox or non-Jewish citizens.

As Thomas Friedman recently highlighted in his NY Times column, three important centrist voices from Israel who write for American Jewish audiences — Rabbi Daniel Gordis, Yossi Klein Halevi, and Matti Friedman published in an open letter in The Times of Israel basically telling Americans that they have to stand up if they want to preserve the U.S.-Israel relationship. They wrote:

"To Israel's friends in North America, we are taking the unusual step of directly addressing you at a moment of acute crisis in Israel. Protecting Israel today means defending it from a political leadership that is undermining our society's cohesion and its democratic ethos, the foundations of the Israeli success story. ... A prime minister currently on trial for corruption, and who has appointed ministers with criminal records, is claiming legitimacy to overturn the legal system."

How should we respond? I am hearing some radical new ideas. Gidi Grinstein, the founder of the Israeli think tank Reut and author of "[Flexigidity: The Secret of Jewish Adaptability](#)," published an essay a few weeks ago in The Times of Israel calling for American Jewry to reimagine itself as "a robust, resilient and prosperous diaspora" that invests in its own vitality and institutions and contributes to American society — no longer accepting the "domineering Zionist discourse that holds American Jewry to be second-class Judaism."

I am reconsidering how I financially support Israel. I am directing my donations to Reform congregations in Israel who do not receive financial support like the

Orthodox communities. I am giving to the Israel Action Center that is fighting for a fair judicial system for all Israeli citizens.

When over 10% of the entire Jewish population in Israel turned out in protests against Netanyahu's extreme right-wing government, I realized we American Jews cannot remain silent. Yes, I still support Israel as our Jewish homeland. However, I cannot support a government that tries to tear apart its judicial branch; threatens to annex all of the West Bank, and gives special status, funding and treatment to the Orthodox Jewish communities. We all must speak out for Israel to remain strong, based on Jewish values. Justice, justice we must pursue.

If any of you want to talk with me about my column, please reach out. At home as in Israel today, the unity of our Jewish community is paramount, and we must all listen to and learn from one another. May we all celebrate next year in Jerusalem...



Message From Cantor Alisa

Dear CBI Community,
There is deep wisdom in the flow of our holidays. The joy of Purim paves a way to the liberation of Pesach. Rebbe Nachman of Bratzlav (1772-1810) taught, *"Joy represents the world of freedom, as in 'For in joy will you go forth' (Is. 55:12). It is by means of joy that a person becomes free and goes forth from exile. When the mind is linked to joy, then that mind and awareness become free and is no longer in exile."*

We find ourselves in a time of transitions, moving from the Book of Exodus to Leviticus, from the Hebrew month of Adar to Nisan, from winter to spring. We enter a season of renewal, a time of spring cleaning and a time of personal cleansing too. We are encouraged to let go of all that gets in the way of living our best lives, symbolized by *chametz*—cleansing our homes of leavened products we refrain from eating during Passover. What continues to impede us in moving forward on our journey to personal freedom and freedom for all? What keeps

us distant from our essential goodness, seeing the goodness in others and living life as the holy gift it is? In addition to asking, “*Why is this night different,*” we might also ask, how can I – each one of us—be different this Passover season? How can I go a little deeper and awaken my soul in new ways to the stories, teachings, and wisdom in our Haggadah?

This year, in the retelling of our Passover story, may we renew our sense of possibility and find release from our personal places of constriction, despair and hopelessness. In so doing, may we draw closer to the deeper truth of who we are, and move forward once again on our journeys toward freedom and a land of promise for all.



Hesed Academy

From Rabbi Bruce

April is going to be another exciting month for Hesed Academy. On April 2, we will be holding our annual Model Seder in our social hall. Each class

will help share another part of the Exodus/Redemption story. Parents are invited to join us. After our Spring break on April 9, we will then enjoy more storytelling on April 16, more art on April 23, and singing with Cantor Alisa on April 30. We will end classes early on April 30 when we start our Yom HaAtzmaut (Israel Independence Day) carnival at noon which will include face painting, a crafts project, Israeli folk dancing, and a nosh of Israeli foods.

Of course, our Community Seder on April 6, and our Trivia night and potluck on April 15 are both family friendly events – we hope you and your kid’s will join i! Also, please join us the first Friday of the month, April 7 for our 6 pm Shabbat service when Moshe the Monkey helps the rabbi share a story and birthday blessings and gifts are given to all those with March and April birthdays.

We are already beginning to plan for our next school year. If you have thoughts you would like to share about how to improve Hesed academy, or if you want to get more involved in our youth education program

(any potential teachers??) please contact the Rabbi. He is always open to suggestions.

We have been blessed with a year with few health problems despite being indoors almost the entire time (our weather had not cooperated!). Please remember to keep any kids who are not 100% healthy at home! Thank you for your support of Hesed Academy.

From Cantor Alisa

Our new B’nai Mitzvah Education Resources page is finished and has been uploaded to CBI’s website under the “Education” tab for classroom, tutoring and at-home practice of all prayers and blessings, especially useful when practicing with chavruta (study buddies!).

It includes the following:

- Links to Hebrew letters and vowels review
- A link to Hebrew letter writing
- Audio files of all prayers and blessings that B’nai Mitzvah students are encouraged to learn to lead a Shabbat service.
- Video files of some prayers and blessings, with a cursor that moves under each word, so students can follow along and work on their reading skills.

Here is the link for viewing:

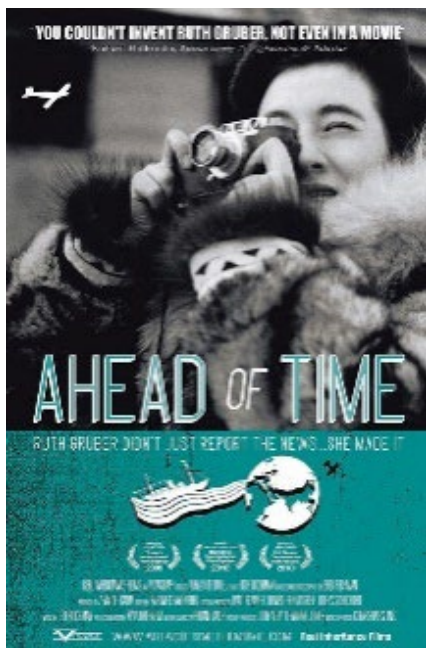
<https://carmelbethisrael.org/bnaimitzvah/>

We encourage everyone who wishes to improve their Hebrew and prayer literacy to visit this site. A work in progress, we welcome your feedback.

This new web page, the creation of our new B’nai Mitzvah Shabbaton program and rewriting the B’nai Mitzvah Guide, completes my final project for the Pardes Senior Educators Fellowship that I began last July in Jerusalem.

(<https://www.pardes.org.il/senioreducatorlearningfellowship/>).

Parent, student and staff feedback and participation has been an integral part of this project. CBI will be receiving \$2000.00 reimbursement for the money spent on this project from the Legacy Heritage Fund, working in conjunction with Pardes (<http://www.legacyheritage.org/>).



Yom HaShoah Film & Speaker

On **Tuesday, April 18 at 7:00 pm**, in observance of Yom HaShoah, CBI presents "Ahead of Time," an award-winning documentary about the life and times of Ruth Gruber. Zeva

Oelbaum, founder of Reel Inheritance Films and producer of this film, will join us by Zoom for a Q&A after the film. We will end the evening with the recitation of the Kaddish as we remember the 6 million Jews (and millions of others) who perished in the Holocaust.

For seven decades, foreign correspondent and photojournalist Ruth Gruber didn't just report the news...she made it! Born in 1911 to Russian Jewish immigrants, Gruber reported from the Soviet Arctic, escorted Holocaust refugees on a secret wartime mission, and changed the world with dispatches from the Palestine-bound ship Exodus in 1947. Through her own words and images, the film follows Ruth Gruber's incredible journey as a student, a reporter, an activist leader, and a prolific author. The film captures the drama of her life as she lent her camera lens – and her heart – to refugees of war.



Lunch with Our Clergy

This month, join Cantor Alisa on **Wednesday, April 19 at noon** at Baja Cantina, located about a mile east of CBI. Weather permitting, we will meet outside where it is easier to hear and hold our discussion.

Lashon hara literally means "evil tongue." It refers to any form of speech or communication that may harm another being. Cantor Alisa will lead a discussion on

the power of speech and that week's Torah portion, *Tazria-Metzora*. Why is the illness of *tza'ra'at* considered "spiritual leprosy"? Why might the sages say, "life and death are on the tongue?"

Come prepared to share your own experiences -- your questions and thoughts are always welcome. Call the CBI office at 831-624-2015 to RSVP. We will order off their regular menu so expect lunch to cost approximately \$18-\$25.



Want to Play Mahjong?

Whether you are a new player or experienced, grab your new 2023 mahj card and come play in the CBI lounge. The date is **Thursday, April 20 at 1:00 pm**. There will be two tables, so reserve a place now by emailing Susan Greenbaum at greenbaumcarmel@sbcglobal.net.

Do bring your mahj purse if you want to play for money. This will be determined that day, depending on the group. This is not a mahjongg lesson/class, although guidance will be available for less-experienced players.



BEST YEARS

Best Years Asilomar Tour

The plan is for our Best Years group to enjoy a private Ranger's tour of some of the grounds at Asilomar on **Thursday, April 27**. Details including the starting time have not yet been set as Asilomar is still in the process of cleaning up from the recent storm. Emails and announcements will clarify all the details for this wonderful gathering in one of the many jewels of our Monterey Peninsula. To RSVP for this tour please call the CBI office at 624-2015. Remember, **this event is free**. Please let us know if you need a ride to this event.



Join Us For Community Shabbat Dinner!

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

Join us as we offer blessings for the bread and wine and sing traditional music to begin our erev Shabbat. Evening services follow at 7:30 pm. Call or email the office for reservations. Cost is \$18 for adults and \$10 for children.



Israel Independence Day Celebration

This month we celebrate the modern state of Israel's 75th anniversary. Join us **Sunday, April 30** as we enjoy a Yom Ha'atzmaut carnival at the end

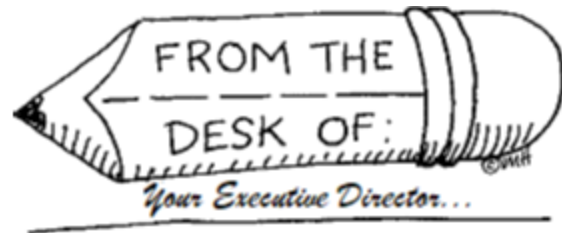
of our Hesed Academy school day. We will start our celebration at noon which will include face painting, an arts and crafts project, cupcake walk, some Israeli folk dancing and a nosh of Israeli foods. If you can volunteer to assist with the face painting, the arts project or help with serving the food, call the rabbi at 831-624-2015 and let him know. Let's celebrate the 75 years of our modern Jewish Homeland.



CBI Book Club

Here are our next two dates and book selections:
April 11, 1:30 PM, home of Suellen Rubin. Book -- ONE TWO THREE by Laurie Frankel

May 9, 1:30 PM, home of Karen Wiskoff. Book -- THE PRISON MINYAN by Jonathan Stone



CBI is in the process of implementing an exciting new synagogue management system called ShulCloud. In addition to improved accuracy and efficiency in the office, our members will see many improvements including:

- A new website and online calendar.
- Easy online forms for pledges, donations, event signups, and Hesed Academy registration.
- A member portal with access to your account information, statements, and member directory.

We expect to be live by the middle of April. A few housekeeping notes:

- If you currently have a credit card or ACH information on file, for security reasons, it will no longer be accessible. You can add new payment information through the member portal or call the CBI office and provide new information.
- If you currently have automatic recurring transactions, they will be good through the end of June. After that, new recurring transactions will be needed.

Soon, you will receive additional information and instructions for creating your member portal access.

We look forward to your feedback and suggestions.



Interested In Zumba Classes at CBI?

Tracy Richards, a certified Zumba instructor, has generously offered to lead Zumba classes at CBI and we are hoping to start classes in CBI's social hall in May. Would you be interested? If so, please call Charlotte Salomon at 925-519-4477 so that we can assess the level of interest, propose a suggested donation, and determine the best schedule for all participants. We look forward to hearing from you!



Are You an Amateur (or Professional) Photographer?

As we develop our new website and improve our social media outreach, CBI needs some great new photos that communicate the beauty of our surroundings, the warmth of our community, and the excitement and enthusiasm of our school and events. If you are interested in being our new photographer or just taking a few new photos for us, please be in touch with our Executive Director, Julie Chase, juliec@carmelbethisrael.org. Students with a good eye and a smartphone are welcome.



Saturday, May 13: Cycling Across America--"We Are All in This Together"

CBI is excited to present the award-winning documentary "We Are All In This Together" by

Pacific Grove native Daniel Troia, who will join us for a Q&A after his film. Daniel has spent the last 16 years of his life learning alternative ways to travel the world and connect with people from different cultures and, in the process, to understand that more unites us than separates us. The film movingly embraces human connection and allows us to share some of Daniel's amazing experiences. All proceeds will go to Gathering for Women.

The Jewish Food Festival is Back!



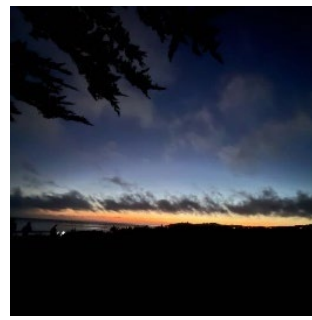
MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR CBI'S FAMOUS JEWISH FOOD FESTIVAL, RETURNING IN-PERSON ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 27! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ALL ROLES AND POSITIONS—CONG. BETH ISRAEL NEEDS YOU!

Congregation Beth Israel is excited to announce the return of its justly famous Jewish Food Festival on Sunday, August 27! The Festival will be live and in person (we will also offer a drive-thru-only option)—we look forward to seeing you all there!

This year's Festival is being chaired by Lisa Averbuch and Jill Martin and CBI is immensely grateful to them for taking on this major endeavor! However, as most of you know from prior years, our Jewish Food Festival needs a whole host of volunteers—please contact Lisa as soon as you can to again make this year's Festival a huge success: lisaaverbuch@yahoo.com or 925-948-5183.



Celebrate Shabbat by honoring a loved one or a special occasion with a leaf on our Tree of Life
Each leaf is \$180 - Contact the CBI office for details

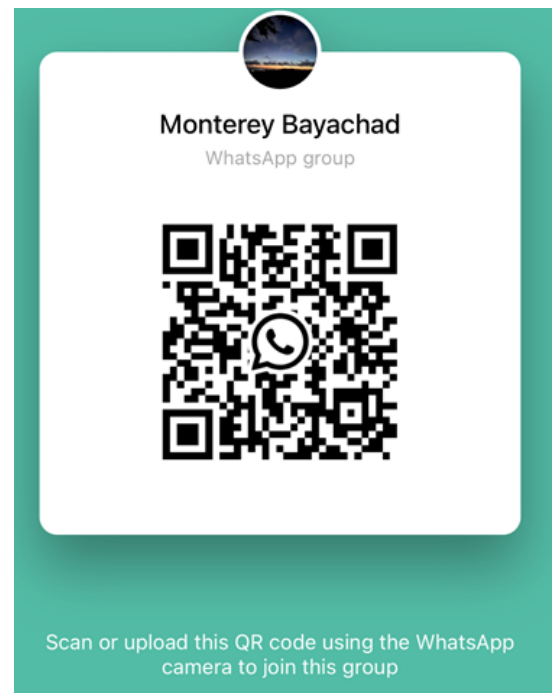


Have You Joined Bayachad?

This fall, new CBI members Danny Bernstein and Leslie

Steinway started Monterey Bayachad to help our Jewish community connect virtually in real-time, across the Monterey County. They chose WhatsApp because it helps bridge iOS and Android users and is a fully encrypted service. Bayachad is a play on the Hebrew word B'Yachad which means together. The group already has 40+ participants, including Rabbi Bruce, Cantor Alisa, Binie from Chabad, and many CBI congregants. The group has helped coordinate event participation, rugelach baking and delivery, locating round challah for Rosh Hashanah, lulav and etrog orders, and more. It's been called a "lifeline" for last-minute requests and problem solving.

We encourage you to scan the QR code with your phone camera or follow this link, <https://chat.whatsapp.com/J924M70NjAkBM5aQFM7wfT> and join the group. If you already have WhatsApp on your phone, joining the group is very simple. If you do not, you will be prompted to download the app and can use your phone number to log in. The goal is 100+ members in 2023!



The Lounge at CBI is Open!

Check out the new Members' Lounge at CBI! You will find a free lending library, board games, coffee and tea, and card tables/chairs for organized games (and we're just getting started!). We have installed a message board so that you can post inquiries, activities, and other items of interest to CBI members. If you are waiting at CBI to pick up your kids, drop by the Lounge to meet with other parents or enjoy some quiet time.

Members can also reserve the Lounge for gatherings of up to 10 people. Consider starting a bridge group, a mahjonn game, a knitting session, a discussion group...This is your space, and we welcome all your ideas!

To reserve The Lounge, call Abby in the CBI office at 831-624-2015.

The refurbished space was made possible by the generosity of CBI members, friends, and family in memory of Diana Greenbaum. The Greenbaum family thanks everyone for enhancing our CBI community.



Join The Trivia Craze

Continued from page 1

Your kids will enjoy pizza and games with our Madrichim; suggested donation of \$18—please call CBI at 831-624-2015 to let us know if your kids are coming. For our potluck dinner (please, no shellfish or pork products), bring an appetizer or a salad if your last name begins with A-H, a main course if your last name begins with I-S, and a dessert if your last name begins with T-Z. Looking forward to seeing all of you on April 15th.



Lace Cookies with Nutella for Passover

These delicate, flourless cookies are so good you will make them all year.

With no mixer needed, these gluten-free cookies are incredibly simple to make; they come together in about 30 minutes. They emerge from the oven crisp and caramelized,

with a delicate lace-like texture — a welcome reprieve from the starchy, dense desserts often served on Passover.

These are not cookies to eat with a glass of milk, but they're delicious alongside a cup of coffee, tea or hot chocolate. And while they're the perfect Passover cookie, I enjoy them year round — one bite and you'll see why.

Note: The best way to get 1 Tbsp of egg white is to separate your eggs and take one Tbsp of the separated egg whites. (You could also use store-bought egg whites).

Ingredients

For the cookies:

- 8 Tbsp (115 g) unsalted butter
- ¾ tsp salt
- 1/2 cup (110 g) light brown sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 Tbsp egg white
- 1/2 cup (55 g) ground almonds
- 1-2 Tbsp water

For the filling:

- Nutella (or your spread of choice)

Directions

1. In a small saucepan, melt the butter.
2. Add the light brown sugar and salt, and whisk until the mixture simmers. Continue to whisk for 1 more minute then transfer to a bowl.
3. Add the vanilla and ground almonds and mix well. Let the mixture sit and cool for a few minutes.
4. Add the egg white and 1 Tbsp water. Mix well. The mixture should be liquid, not hard, so add another Tbsp water if needed.
5. Let the mixture cool for 10 minutes. Meanwhile preheat your oven to 180°C/ 350°F.
6. On a sheet tray lined with parchment, place 1 tsp of the mixture at a time, leaving 4-inch gaps between each cookie, as the mixture will spread.
7. Bake for 7-9 minutes. When the butter stops bubbling and the cookies are caramelized, they are done. Remove from the oven and let the cookies cool completely on a wire rack.
8. When the cookies are cool, pair them up, and fill each sandwich with Nutella or filling of your choice.



Join Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum and
Cantor Alisa Fineman

5783-2023

**Community 2nd Night
Passover Seder
at Congregation Beth Israel**

Thursday, April 6, 6 pm

DINNER MENU

Chicken soup with matzo balls
Gefilte fish
Chicken in Sherry Wine and Mushroom Sauce
Fresh Fruit Cup or Passover Dessert
Traditional Seder Plate on every table
Vegetarian and Kids meal options available

Prepaid RSVP required by March 30

Adults: \$55

Kids 12 and under: free

Students and active military: \$25

RESERVE NOW

Online : www.CarmelBethIsrael.org

Email: ShalomCBI@aol.com

Call: 831-624-2015





Meet Joe and Carol Mironov

Joe:

Carol and I grew up in Teaneck, New Jersey—though we did not know one another until after college.

Both sets of my grandparents fled the Russian pogroms in the late 1800's. My paternal grandfather was a mattress maker in the Bronx and his four sons delivered mattresses by horse drawn cart in the 1930's. My maternal grandfather walked the streets of NYC with a squeegee and a bucket, and washed store windows.

My family moved to Teaneck where I went to public school, attended Hebrew School, and was a Bar Mitzvah at the JCC.

After college I worked as a sales rep in the paper industry for 45 years before retiring in 2020.

Carol:

My roots are in eastern Europe. My father was first generation American and carried on the family

profession of bookbinder. When my dad, the Bronx boy, met my mom, the Brooklyn girl, they married and moved to the country, Teaneck, New Jersey. I also attended public school there and participated in the JCC.

Ironically, my mom was a lifeguard at the JCC and knew Joe as an adolescent.

Double ironically, Joe went to High School with my older sister.

Joe and I met after I graduated college and were astounded when we realized our backstory. We married two years later and raised two children while I worked on the business side of a dental practice. Ten years ago our son made his home here in California with his wife and our two young grandchildren. Our daughter is in Philadelphia getting her MBA. We missed the closeness of family and were ready for a new adventure. In June of 2020 we came west to visit our son and fell in love with Carmel Valley. Within six months we bought a house, moved, and joined CBI.

We are thrilled to be living here and grateful for the CBI family and the major part they play in our lives.

B'nai Mitzvah in April

This month we will celebrate with two families as their daughters become B'not Mitzvah at CBI. On April 8, Ava Kaplan and her family will join us for Shabbat morning when she chants from the Torah. Although they live in the Los Angeles area, her family joined CBI so that they could join us for this special life cycle event at CBI. Ava has been tutored this past year by Liotte Greenbaum who also will join the Rabbi on the pulpit for this service.

On April 29, Makayla Schnitzer will celebrate becoming a Bat Mitzvah. She has been working with Cantor Alisa as she prepares to lead many of the prayers at the 10:30 Shabbat morning service.

Mazel tov to both families.



Congregation Beth Israel

April 2023

Nisan ~ Iyar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:30 am Shabbat Torah Study Also on
2 9:30 am Religious School Model Seder 4:00 pm I-Help Men	3	4	5 First Seder No Adult Ed.	6 Passover 6:00 pm CBI Community Seder	7 Passover  Traditions 6:00 pm Family Shabbat Services also on	8 Passover 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service when Ava Kaplan becomes a Bat Mitzvah Also on
9 Passover No Religious School	10 Passover	11 Passover 6:30 pm CBI Executive Committee Meets	12 Passover 4:00 pm Adult Biblical Hebrew	13 Yizkor	14 7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Services also on	15 10:30 am Shabbat Torah Study Also on 6:00 pm Jewish Trivia & Potluck
16 9:30 am Religious School 12:30 pm Aleynu	17	18 Yom HaShoah  7:00 pm Yom HaShoah Movie	19 Noon Lunch with our Clergy 4:00 pm Adult Biblical Hebrew	20 1:00 Mahjongg at CBI	21 7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Services also on	22 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Shabbaton for B'nai Mitzvah students and parents 10:30 am Shabbat Torah Study Also on
23 9:30 am Religious School	24	25	26 Yom HaAtzmaut 4:00 pm Adult Biblical Hebrew	27 Best Years Event at Asilomar	28 6:15 Community Shabbat Dinner 7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Services with Anniversary Blessing also on 	29 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service when Makayla Schnitzer becomes a Bat Mitzvah Also on
30 9:30 am Religious School 12:30 p.m. Aleynu Yom HaAtzmaut Celebration		7:00 pm Board of Trustees Meets				

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Gabriela Lipsky	1
Joshua Kosmont	2
Jana Stiebel	4
Jill Gabbe	5
Bill Pardue	5
Elaine Lazarus	7
Eli'Noar Lipow	7
Marian Sosnick	7
Michael Leavy	9
Julie Chase	11
Amos Cohen	11
Myles Elliot Dau	11
Poppy Esther Dau	11
Paul Harmatz	11
Robert Kershner	12
Marshal Blatt	13
David Ortiz-Suslow	13
Larry Solow	13
Abra Teitler	14
Vivi Fenwick	15
Barry Rund	16
Elizabeth Grogin	17
Richard Kreitman	17
Michael Newton	17
Barbara Mitchell	18
Arina Ganeles	21
Pauline Troia	21
Robert Fenton	22
Ruthie Pack	22
Rizal Baguio	23
Rory Lakind	23
Mitchel Winick	23
Gary Simon	24
Steven Goldberg	26
Daniel Robbins	26
David Schnitzer	26
Brian Ellinoy	27
Makayla Schnitzer	28
Susan Rosen	29
Alison Baguio	30

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

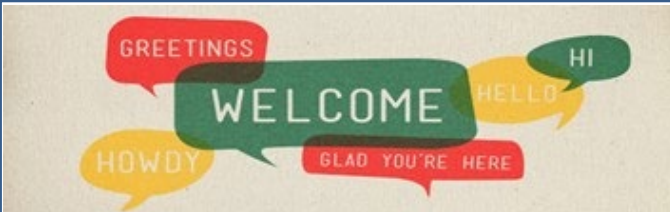
Mitchel & Deborah Winick	1
David & Andrea Rosenberg	2
Hersh & Lizbeth Davis	7
Thomas & Ellen Krause	11
Bill Pardue & Barbara Mitchell	13
Matthew Schuss & Charlene Webber-Schuss	18
Robert & Chinanit Kershner	26
Senen & Alison Baguio	30
Daniel & Louise Riddell-Kaufman	30

Family News



We mourn the loss of John Kaufman, beloved father of Louise Riddell-Kaufman. May his memory be 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 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@aol.com to be included in the Shofar.



New Member:
Margaret Goodman

TODAH RABAH!

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

Cantorial Restricted Fund

Donald & Marcia Pompan: in honor of
Cantor Alisa

LeRoy Kohn Adult Education

Roger & Joanne Shiffman: In memory of
Victor & Jennie Shiffman

Lipman Religious Activities Fund

Rosemary Lande

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

William & Myrna Brandwein: in memory of
my mother Lillian Kessler Firestone

General Donations

Nancy Callahan: in honor of Robert Taylor

Fletcher & in memory of Joan Ott

Maureen Chodosh: in memory of Norman

Chodosh & Fanny Chodosh

Arylne Garde: in honor of the CBI Book
Club

Ellyn Gelson: in honor of March birthdays
and anniversaries

Samuel & Tally Helfont: for Kabbalat
Shabbat

Sharon Hoffman: in honor of my Havurah
sponsorship of the March 3 oneg

Thomas & Ellen G. Krause: in memory of
Ellen's mother Rose Ruja

Rosemary Lande

Steven Retsky: in loving memory of Herbert
Retsky

Stephen L. & Wendie A. Ryter: in memory of
Mary Marcus & Nettie Morgan

Herbert Stern: in memory of Esther Stern

Herbert Stern: in memory of Samuel Stern

Michael & Debora Waxer



Thank You to Our Oneg Hosts

Thank you to our Oneg
Hosts for the Month of
March and April:

March 3 – Chaver Havurah

March 17 – Friends & Family of Jesse Entin – In
honor of Jesse becoming a Bat Mitzvah

March 24 – Bob & Sandy Kohn – In loving memory
of Bob's father LeRoy

April 7 – Marsha Kelly – in honor of her mother
Sally Mandel, stepfather Irving Mandel, &
stepfather Sam Franks

April 14 - Vic & Sylvia Krimsley – in memory of
Vic's father Malcolm

April 21 – Gary & Judy Simon – in honor of Judy's
brother Robert Lefkowitz

April 28 – Friends & Family of Maykayla Schnitzer
– in honor of her becoming a Bat Mitzvah

If you would like to host during the month of May
or June, 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.

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Torah Connections:

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By Michael L. Waxer

Good Times/ Bad Times

When reading the Torah there is a powerful pattern that becomes obvious. One might notice that right after something *amazing* happens, something *terrible* occurs. This can be seen immediately, in fact, in the first two verses.

“In a beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was formless and empty and darkness was on the face of the deep, and the spirit of God hovered on the face of the waters.” (Genesis [Beresheet] 1:1 – 1:2)

We see this amazing creation of the spiritual universe (heavens) and the physical universe (earth) in verse 1, and then we learn that it was empty, without form, dark. Clearly a strong juxtaposition of wonderful and then, not so good.

Perhaps you are thinking that this is not so clear cut. Well, right after God creates man and woman and the Garden of Eden, the snake enters and is the root of what many consider to be an unforgivable sin, leading to expulsion from Eden. Soon thereafter we read that Adam and Eve had two sons, but then we learn that *one son kills* the other.

This pattern of good news and then terrible news happens over, and over, and over. What does this pattern mean? Why is the Torah filled with these very uplifting verses, and then, often immediately after, we see verses that describe something truly tragic.

In the next book of Torah, Exodus, the just freed Israelites are receiving direct revelation from HaShem at Mount Sinai. During this unique touching of the divine to a people, the people insist on making a golden calf. Wait... *what?* How could such a terrible thing happen, and, why at this ecstatic moment? But what happens next is most interesting yet gives us a powerful insight.

HaShem *reveals more* about the intimate relationship between the Jewish people and HaShem. In fact, it is thru this terrible event of the golden calf that we learn of HaShem's **thirteen attributes of mercy**. We also get the very endearing moment when HaShem passes by Moses so he can see an aspect of HaShem. Metaphorically this ‘viewing’ *decreases* the distance between our physical nature, and our spiritual, or divine, nature.

We can learn from this what we probably all sense, which is that **we make our biggest spiritual strides in response to a tragedy**. Because of the terrible failures (the golden calf) a *greater* display of compassion and mercy is shown. **The depth of the love between HaShem and the Jewish people is displayed.**

Our sages teach us that **‘a person cannot stand on the words of Torah unless they’ve fallen with the words of Torah.’** We progress by getting back up after we fall. Our ability to ‘screw

things up’ is how God made us, it is our nature. The process of rectification, or standing back up, opens a doorway to both character development and spiritual development.

Further, we learn from this that a person is **never to give up hope**. The examples we have in the Torah are purposely extreme. This should give us comfort, since few of us kill a sibling, or celebrate with a golden idol that we had a hand in making. The terrible errors made by our ancestors probably exceed our own personal failings. Yet, we exist because of these occurrences. Great successes, and great failures in every generation.

This Torah teaching, that not only understands human error, but which understands that our spiritual growth is somehow connected with our mistakes, should give us all great hope. Our failings fall into a number of different categories, and they all may have a place in explaining our nature. Torah explains that some failings are intentional, and some are unintentional.

In fact, there are code words for different types of transgressions. For example,

“And it will be that when he hears the words of this oath, he will bless himself in his heart, saying, Peace will be with me even though according to the vision of my heart I walk in order to add the drunk with the thirsty.” (Deuteronomy [Devarim] 29:18) (emphasis added).

In this description, ‘**drunk**’ is a metaphor for ‘**unintentional sin**’, as a drunk person may sin without being aware of what he is doing. ‘**Thirsty**’ is a metaphor for ‘**intentional sin**’ since a thirsty person is seeking a way to satisfy his craving. Similarly, we are taught that there are different ways to mitigate for errors we make, both for personal wrong-doings as well as for communal failings.

The Torah explains our origins and our purpose, and then gives us the tools to spiritually grow. An aspect of this spiritual growth is through our ‘**flawed**’ **nature**. There is no ‘sugar-coating’ in the Torah. Raw humanity is exposed, the good and the bad. **The book is a guide on how to overcome. One aspect of being a slave, is allowing our ‘nature’ to control us. Freedom is how to become master of our nature.**

The term ‘**halachah**’, the term for describing Jewish mitzvot, literally means ‘**the pathway**’. We are so fortunate to be in a tradition which understands human nature, openly discusses the great and the terrible potential of humanity, and in the process gives us the tools on how to lead our lives and to spiritually advance. **Baruch HaShem.**

This Torah Connection was inspired by Rav Frankenthal of Kochav Yaakov in Israel but this is the sole responsibility of the author and specifically does NOT necessarily reflect those of the Board of Trustees of CBI, CBI, its membership, Reform Judaism, or Judaism. Please send any comments to the author at: mlwaxer@sbcalocal.net.

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Parshiot

April 1, Tzav

T: Leviticus 6:1-8:36

**H: Jeremiah 7:21-8:3,
9:22-23**

April 8, Passover Shabbat

T: Exodus 33:12-34:26

H: Ezekiel 36:37-37:14

April 15, Shemini

T: Leviticus 9:1-11:47

H: II Samuel 6:1-7:17

April 22, Tazria/Metzorah

T: Leviticus 12:1-15:33

H: II Kings 4:42 – 5:19

April 29, Achrei

Mot/Kedoshim

T: Leviticus 16:1-20:27

H: Ezekiel 22:1-19