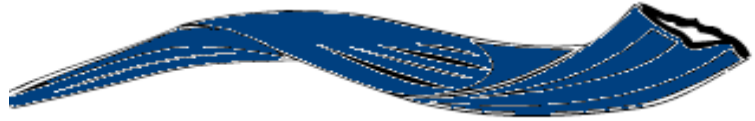


SHOFAR



Monthly Newsletter of the Monterey Peninsula Jewish Community

www.carmelbethisrael.org

Yom HaShoah Program April 8

For this year's Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) observance we have planned a deeply moving and educational experience. Please see the additional article in this Shofar about the Movie/Play Terezin. It shares with you some background information about the film available for screening during the week leading up to our special evening program. On **Thursday, April 8 at 7:00 PM** we will enjoy a discussion with the author and some of the cast members.

Thanks to the Celia Weiss Holocaust Memorial Fund the film and discussion are free for all CBI members. As the film focuses on children in the Terezin Camp, it is an excellent program for Middle School and High School students as well as adults. Here are the links required for your participation. For members:

<https://cutt.ly/TerezinTempleMembers>

Non- members can receive the link to the film and another link for the Thursday evening discussion for \$25.

<https://cutt.ly/TerezinNonTemple>



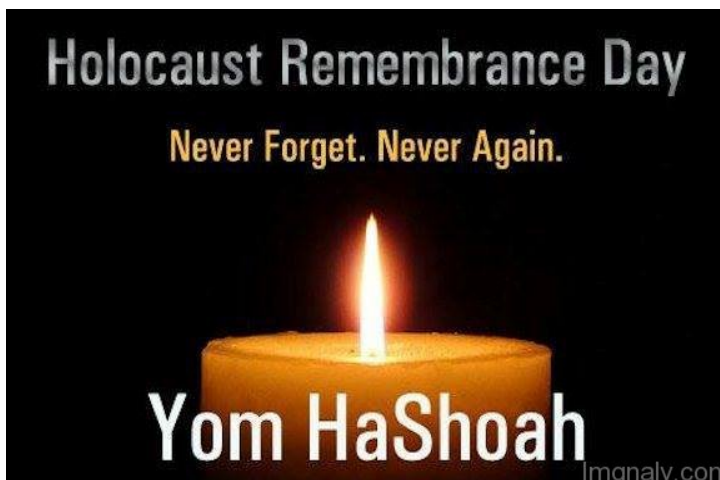
Terezin: Children of the Holocaust (Why Should You Watch This Film?)

by Susan Greenbaum

In the Spring of 2016, Bruce and I were having dinner with CBI members Gabriela and Sam Lipsky. Gabriela mentioned a play that her sister, Anna, had written in 1970 while in graduate school. That play, *Terezin: Children of the Holocaust*, told the story of the final days of six children in the Terezin (Theresienstadt) concentration camp near Prague.

My interest was piqued, as Bruce's cousin was one of the 100 child survivors of Terezin. More than 15,000 other children perished. You may recall the book *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, which featured poems and drawings from the children of Terezin.

In November 2016, through the generosity of several CBI members, funds were raised to bring the play to the Monterey Peninsula from Boston for its California debut. An entourage of 32 people — cast members, parents, siblings, grandparents, the play's director (Anna), the costume director, and the tech person — flew to Monterey and performed the play at three different schools for almost 2,000 middle-school and high-school students. *Continued on page 5*





From the Rabbi's Desk...

We begin every CBI Board meeting reading our mission: "Congregation Beth Israel's mission is to be a welcoming and inclusive center for Jewish life in the Monterey Peninsula area." To say that having to close our building to all programs and services because of Covid-19 challenged our ability to be welcoming and inclusive is an understatement! One can only be so welcoming online. Zoom services continue to allow us to distantly support one another as we join in prayer, but like most of you, I miss the community singing, the sharing of reading aloud together, and just visiting with each other in the social hall following the service.

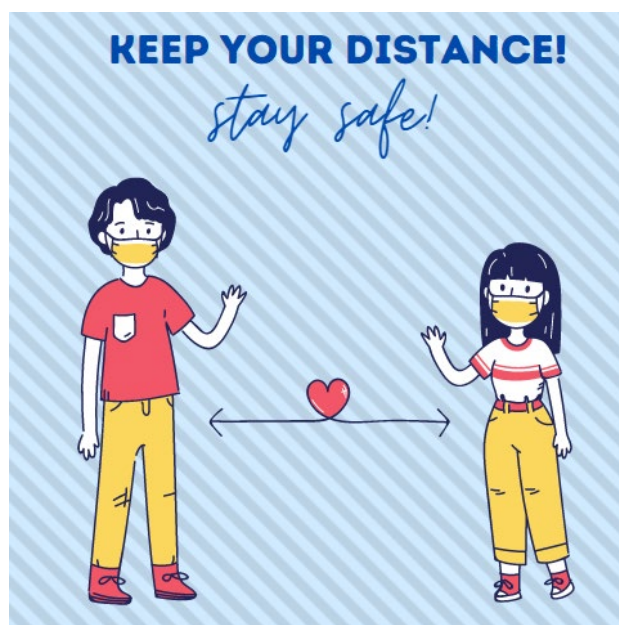
As I shared with you in a message months ago, our Jewish teaching emphasizes the importance of protecting life. As your rabbi, I believe it is my responsibility to be overly cautious for the sake of our health. My challenge is balancing our physical wellbeing with our mental need to be together. We know "People are not meant to be alone." We have basic social needs that suffer when we are forced to remain distanced from one another.

By the time you receive this Shofar and are reading this message you hopefully will have already read an email signed by our CBI President Dan Nussbaum and me. In that email we outlined our plans to start carefully meeting together in person in limited numbers. We are following guidelines from a variety of resources including our local medical advisors, the Union for Reform Judaism, and the Center for Disease Control. We are making sure to follow all the rules established and outlined for our State and County as well. We are using science and medicine as we embrace our religious practices.

For the immediate future when we do gather, we ask that it is only with those who have already been fully vaccinated and are 100% healthy. We will also limit the number of people who can participate in any indoor event. We will not be singing together inside CBI's walls. For example, we will move outside for the short Havdalah service that concludes our

Seudah Shlishit gathering. When we are finally able to have some members join us in the Sanctuary on a Sabbath evening, our Cantorial Soloist Suzanne Guinane will remain on Zoom. Each step we take will bring joy to some and frustrate others. As your rabbi, I will continue to try to meet your needs in a manner that is safe for all of us. Since I have heard both that we are moving too slowly and that we are not opening soon enough I am pretty sure that we are on the right track!

Those of you who have not yet been able to get vaccinated will still have access to all our programs and services on Zoom. I know many who have been vaccinated will choose to stay away from any indoor gathering for the immediate future. Depending on the number of people who do want to join us in person, we will use a registration system that will require us to take turns attending indoor events in person. I am looking for volunteers who are good on the computer to help our community members who are struggling to get vaccine appointments. Please call me if you need assistance getting an appointment or can help those who are finding the process overly challenging! May we continue to support each other as we see that proverbial 'light at the end of the tunnel.' CBI continues to thrive because of how we care for each other. I pray that our CBI family's future be filled with health and love and togetherness. Amen.





**From our President
Dan Nussbaum,
President Board of
Trustees**

The news from the COVID front contains some positive signs (vaccinations are up; longer term infection, hospitalization rates and fatality curves are down; CDC memos are identifying safe activities). At the same time, the news from the COVID front is cautionary, as the same indicators occasionally move in contrary directions. Still, public policy pronouncements at most levels have become more positive about planning to take steps in the direction of some sort of normalcy.

Recently, the Rabbi and I sent a message to all congregants (drafted by Scott Lyons), the gist of which was: Yes to finding safe ways to re-open our activities, at least in hybrid form; yes to be able to get together for other communal functions; and yes to “taking initial, cautious, tentative, steps to reopen the synagogue.” We know that other regions and communities have moved at faster or slower paces, but CBI has been following a course in line with the core Jewish principle of Pikuach Nefesh (to save a life).

Opening up is not without risk, as all the public announcements remind us, and as we all intuit. We are moving forward by using an important principle of risk management, which is to mitigate risks with prototypes (basically small steps), and from these prototypes we learn what works, as well as what to avoid. We have the following prototypes in progress or planned :

- March 1. Potrero pre-school re-opened under the strict State rules and the management of Potrero’s owner.
- March 20. Saturday afternoon *Se’udah Shelishit* introduced a hybrid mode, with some people in person in the CBI social hall and others Zoom-ing in.
- April 15. Lunch with the Rabbi, in person, outside in our CBI backyard.

●June 5. B’not Mitzvah Service in the sanctuary with the nuclear family in attendance in the sanctuary and all other guests on Zoom.

●Additionally, we are planning hybrid Friday night Shabbat services and exploring hybrid religious school.

I hope that you will join us in these community activities in ways that are comfortable for you and that fit your needs to stay healthy and to feel safe. We are continuing a process based on caution, because, as a guiding principle, I think it is better to under- promise and overdeliver, rather than to overpromise and underdeliver.

I need to make a correction to my last column. In discussing the successful fundraising among professionals in the legal and medical professions, I didn’t include the fact that Dr. Marshal Blatt was one of the prime movers in this successful effort. There’s even a rumor that it was Angelica Blatt who surfaced the original idea. My apologies, Blatt family, for the omission. The fault is entirely mine. I thank you for your service to CBI. I do appreciate your help. My thanks to Dr. Beryl Levinger for her outstanding Saturday afternoon sessions on the Book of Ruth. I am always glad to have Beryl’s well-planned and insightful presentations on Torah. Wishing that you and your loved ones all Stay Safe,

Dan

Dan Nussbaum

(C) (831) 324-3228



A simple way to support our synagogue and it doesn’t cost a thing!

- In your internet browser enter **amazonsmile.com**
- Select CBI as your selected recipient
- Every purchase you make sends dollars to CBI



From Our Cantorial Soloist and Director of Education....

Leiv tov (Generosity), *V'ahavta l'reacha kamocha* (Love your neighbor as yourself), *B'tzelem Elohim* (In G-d's image),

Tzedakah (Righteous giving), *Klal Yisrael* (Jewish Community). Our CBI Religious and Hebrew School students and families, Kindergarten through High School, put these into action December, January, February and March. How? By buying, preparing and delivering food for homeless men on our peninsula through I-HELP.

A hearty *Mazel tov* and *todah rabbah* to our students and families! I was overwhelmed with joy and gratitude at how quickly and generously our Sign-Up Genius was completed each month. Even during a pandemic, our families and students showed what it is to be a #walkingtorah. Grades 6 and 7 volunteered for December, Grades 3 – 5 volunteered for January, Kindergarten – Grade 2 volunteered for February and our Madrichim Team “batted clean-up” in March. What an incredible *mitzvah*!

They provided a cooked main dish and veggies, salad, bread and butter, dessert and water for dinner. Breakfast was 2 dozen eggs, 1 dozen bagels and cream cheese, fruit, milk, orange juice, cereal and even pancake mix. All delivered safely to a table outside, physically distanced and wearing face masks.

Todah rabbah and *Kol hakavod* to Arlene Krebs, CBI's Social Action Committee Chair, for providing this opportunity for our families. Our students and families have shared with me they are looking forward to participating again next year. Yay! I look forward to weaving more Social Action opportunities into our curriculum next year, too!

Next year.....it is hard to believe we only have 2 months left in our Virtual School Year! I cannot thank our parents enough for supporting your children's Jewish Education while juggling so many things during

this pandemic. Thank you for your flexibility, your honesty and building trust in and with me through our emails, phone conversations, physically distanced Drive Through Events and conversations. Yes, we can build community even in our Virtual World with a new member of the CBI Family – me. Who knew? Thank you also for your trust by inviting us into your homes, via zoom. I continue to enjoy meeting students, parents, grandparents, extended family members and pets during Music, *T'filah*, Hebrew Through Movement, *Tot Shabbat*, *Erev Shabbat* and *Shabbat* morning services. Our Zoom Windows build our Zoomiverse – our portable sanctuary. And our teachers....how you have pivoted, stretched, and worked so many extra hours to provide ways to engage our students and families in the Virtual World. I see you; I hear you and I appreciate you more than you know.

I continue to work very closely with my Cantorial and Rabbinic Colleagues across the country as we support and collaborate with one another in finding ways for us to begin coming together again safely. The vaccine gives us hope. May we continue to wear our face masks, physically distance, and protect one another so that day may come soon. I yearn for the day when we can safely begin coming together and I can hear the voice of my congregation, for the first time, as we pray in song together.





Continuing on the first Friday this month, **April 2**, and the first Friday night service in future months, this service will be designated as “Family Shabbat” and include more children friendly songs and a story instead of a sermon. While we will still begin at **7:30** we hope more young families will join us. In the past many of our older members have found Family Shabbat to be their favorite service. We hope everyone will join us the first Friday each month for our uplifting Family Shabbat services.



Tot Shabbat Returns

All preschoolers and their families are invited to join Rabbi Greenbaum and Cantorial Soloist Suzanne Guinane and Moshe the Monkey on Zoom **Friday April 16 at 5:30 PM**. They will lead a short online service (approximately 30 minutes) filled with songs and a story. This uplifting gathering is perfect for our youngest members and their families. Please invite young families who are not yet CBI members to join us online for our Tot Shabbat program. The zoom link will be sent in our weekly CBI eblast. You can also call the CBI office if you cannot find the link.



CBI Interest-Free Loan

Because of the generosity of an anonymous donor CBI is now offering interest free loans up to \$500 for CBI members. Please contact our Administrative

Assistant Abby King or Rabbi Greenbaum at 831-624-2015 and ask for the simple one-page loan application. Loans will be made for both personal and professional needs. All requests will be kept confidential. Our congregation is here to support those in need during these challenging financial times.



Lunch with the Rabbi

Let's try meeting in person in CBI's back yard! It has been a year since the “Lunch with the Rabbi” program went online. Hopefully enough of us have been vaccinated that we can try meeting safely in person, safe distancing on the blacktop area below our CBI building. If you are vaccinated and healthy, then join us on **Thursday, April 15 at noon**. Bring your lunch and join Rabbi Greenbaum for a one hour discussion on “Israel Today.” April 15 is also Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel Independence Day. What's new in Israel? Are Reform and Conservative Jews now accepted in Israel today? What's going on with Israeli politics? Come prepared to question and discuss Israel related issues. If it is raining, we will social distance in our social hall with the doors open. Please call the CBI office at 831-624-2015 to RSVP.

Terezin *continued from page 1*

For many of our local youth, it was their first introduction to the Holocaust. After each performance, the cast and director responded to questions.

The play has been performed continuously for the past 50 years and has traveled the world to destinations including Auschwitz, Terezin, Cuba, and the Fringe Festival in Scotland. It has been a life-changing experience for the hundreds of children who have performed over the years. These kids will tell you how the play's themes of anti-Semitism, bullying, and racism are still relevant today, and how important it is to educate today's youth about the Holocaust. You can read more on the website: terezin.org

Due to COVID-19 and the curtailment of live performances, the current cast decided to film the play. It is intense, so parents will have to decide if it is age appropriate for their kids. It is geared toward middle-school and older students and adults. On April 8 at 7:00 PM, Anna and some of the cast will participate in a Q & A. Watch for more details and a film trailer in the CBI e-blasts. Watch the film between April 1-8 and then join us for the 7:00 PM discussion.



CBI's Back Yard

With more people getting vaccinated and with safe distancing and mask wearing, maybe it is time to

safely gather behind our CBI building with your friends. Telephone your Chavurah, or a couple friends and plan a picnic. Many groups have discovered that setting up chairs in a large circle (safe distancing) on our blacktop below our building is a great place to visit. There are already some tables and chairs just waiting for you. Some have brought lunches or wine and snacks to enjoy while visiting.

If you choose to use our backyard, please be extra careful in maintaining at least 6 feet from others and wear your masks! Our lower lot is also pet friendly (leashes suggested and please pick up after your dogs) and open every day. Call the rabbi if you want him to stop in for a short visit as well. He'll even help lead a discussion if you want. You are welcome to take advantage of this prime meeting space that allows for safe distancing in a responsible fashion. Remember there are no bathrooms available.



COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Attention All High School Seniors and Parents of Seniors!

If you are interested in applying for a CBI Merit College Scholarship, now is the time to get started. Applications are available in your high school career center, at the CBI office, or on the CBI website at carmelbethisrael.org on the Learning Tab.

The College Fund was born through the efforts of Judy Masliyah b"n to give back to the students of our local community, and to recognize their achievement and involvement in Jewish Life. It has been and remains a way to honor students who consistently show outstanding academic work, leadership, community dedication and values of Jewish life with a financial reward and community recognition.

We have awarded 90 scholarships since 1993 when we first started this worthwhile endeavor. The committee is grateful to the wonderful contributors who have helped establish and have sustained this fund since its inception.

The College Fund recognizes worthy Jewish students on the Monterey Peninsula who have been admitted to a four-year college. Awards will be made in May and, if possible, presented at the student's high school awards ceremony and are recognized at the Senior Shabbat. We want to acknowledge your accomplishments and contributions to our community. We hope you will apply for the CBI Merit College Scholarship!

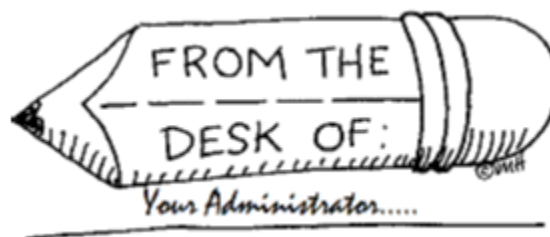
Be sure to read the criteria for selection carefully. The deadline for submitting your completed application is Wednesday, April 28, 2021, 4:00 p.m. Please email your application to Vivi Fenwick at vivifenwick@gmail.com

Thank you.

Vivi Fenwick

CBI College Scholarship Committee Chair

831-262-4237



While our building has been closed for worship and programs we have been busy making security upgrades to our campus. You may remember that CBI was awarded a large security grant from the California Office of Emergency Services. We have used the grant to secure our doors, install a security camera system, cover all our windows with a reflective security film, and make repairs to our doors and locks. Still to come, in the next few months, improved parking lot lighting and concrete planters/bollards around our building. Kudos to the Safety and Security Committee for all their expertise and planning for these important projects.

On a more aesthetic note, our beautiful front doors, now equipped with an electronic lock, will be stripped, and refinished in April.

We are delighted to have Potrero School back on campus. Even with reduced size and hours, it's nice, once again, to hear the children playing on our playground.

Abby and I continue to be busy and look forward to seeing you all again soon. We're here Monday – Friday, so please give us a call with any questions or concerns.

Julie Chase



Spring into Social Action

As the weather warms, and spring blooms appear, we remain fortunate and steadfast to continue our small, though important, social action activities.

I-HELP

There have been 9 Men with 2 monitors housed at a local Church for all these months. Some of the men have fortunately returned to their families. Others are “itching” to get out and find work. They are strong and healthy, in good humor and friendly. They have been vaccinated with the Johnson & Johnson 1-shot vaccine. They are grateful, as we are for them.

On the first Sunday of every month, our CBI community provides them with meals and good cheer. Our Religious School Grades K-2 provided February's and the Madrichim Team provided dinner and breakfast in March. Thank you, parents and our Religious School Director, Suzanne for overseeing and organizing our program.

Super Special Thanks to Matthew and Charlene Schuss, who, over the past 10+ years have organized a tailgate party for the Men to watch Super Bowl. The men had a TV hook-up, large screen projection and enjoyed the snacks and the game.

I show up on these first Sundays of the month with the next day's lunch. Accompanying me is my little guy, Jax, 11.5 pounds, full of life, a rescued wired-hair terrier. As soon as we turn onto the church road, Jax gets so excited and begins “talking” his glee, happy to see the men. Two of them are very fond of this little pup and await him with treats! So naturally he is all over them, jumping and licking them, doing tricks and being obedient, anything for a treat! To see the men and Jax play, brings brief moments of joy. Such small gestures transform our spirits.

There are 6 women housed at another church. They too were vaccinated with the J&J vaccine. The Women's problems are more complex, and most of them are on disability income and cannot work although some have gotten jobs or returned to their families. In some cases, I-HELP has helped others with housing. The Lambourne Institute for Life Mastery has partnered with CBI to provide meals for the Women over the past 2+ years. They provided a Chinese dinner for the women on Monday, March 29th.

However, from April through September, we need our CBI community to provide the Men's monthly dinners, breakfasts & lunches, and the May Women's I-HELP. We'd so appreciate our Congregation Members to provide meals. Would you like to cook a dinner? Make a salad? Bake desserts? Shop for breakfast items—bagels, eggs, milk and coffee?

There are so many ways for you to contribute – to provide the sustenance for those who so depend on our goodwill. Please contact me and we'll make the arrangements and plan the dates that work best for you—again, anytime between April through September—the first Sunday of the month for the Men and months with 5th Mondays for the Women.

Arlene Krebs

[<arlenekrebs123@gmail.com>](mailto:arlenekrebs123@gmail.com)



UJC Donations

Michael & Debora Waxer: in honor of Barbara Lipman and the Torah study days

College Scholarship

Elizabeth Todd in memory of Judy Masliyah
 Suzanne Graybill in memory of Judy Masliyah
 James Fox in memory of Judy Masliyah
 Michael & Constance Kean: in thanksgiving of Judy Masliyah and her life of healing and service
 Rosemary Lande: in memory of Judy Masliyah
 Wendy & Andrew Schmidt: in memory of Judy Masliyah
 Susan Schwartz: in memory of Judy & Sadok Masliyah
 Jill & Jim Sleeper: in memory of Judy Masliyah for starting the College Scholarship Fund
 Lester Tockerman: in Memory of a fellow veteran
 Lester Tockerman: in Memory of Al Adolf

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Barry R. Harrow
 Rosemary Lande: Happy Birthday to Diana Greenbaum, Micah Lande, Malina Breaux & Theo Coe
 Arthur Latimer
 Susan Schwartz: in memory of Neil Teitler

Fundraising

Scott & Shel Lyons: Ladies Paint Night Event
 Ann & Steve Packer: Doctors & Lawyers challenge
 Susan Schwartz: Doctors & Lawyers challenge in memory of Richard Rosen

General Donations

Barry & Randi Brookstein: in memory of Jack Martin Hanover
 Nancy Callahan: in honor of Robert Taylor Fletcher III
 Maureen Chodosh: in memory of Norman Chodosh & Fanny Chodosh

Robert & Frieda Golding : in memory of Al Adolf
 Ellyn Gelson: Birthdays & Anniversaries
 Robert & Raya Hoskinson: in memory of Jacob Weintraub, Ken Kuperman, & Joseph Rice
 Thomas & Ellen G. Krause: in memory of Ellen's mom Rose Ruja
 Alan Lefkof & Ann Gordon: in honor of their 1st grandchild, Emma Haber
 Clark Miller & Cara Lieb: in memory of Harriet Jean Miller
 Stephen L. & Wendie A. Ryter: in memory of Nettie Morgan & Mary Marcus
 Jim & Natalie Sammet: in memory of Dennis Bates' sister, Marjorie Leary
 Jim & Natalie Sammet: in memory of Neil Teitler
 Matthew Schuss & Charlene Webber-Schuss: in memory of Al Adolph
 Susan Schwartz: in honor of the hard work and good will of our wonderful office staff, Julie & Abby
 Sarita Chavez Silverman: in memory of Joseph Silverman
 Andrew Sisolak: in memory of Lois S. Menold and Amir F. Mansour
 Herbert Stern: in memory of Samuel Stern
 Martin & Karen Wiskoff: in memory of Karen's brother Richard Prupes

Social Action

Susan Schwartz: in memory of Al Adolph

Religious School Fundraising

Lewis A. & Sandra Leader: Book Sale Donation





Yom HaZikaron

(Israel Memorial Day – April 14) memorializes those who gave their lives in defense of the State of Israel, as well as civilian victims of terrorism. The Israeli Knesset (parliament)

established the day before [Yom HaAtzmaut](#) (Israeli Independence Day) as a national day of public mourning to remember and honor soldiers who lost their lives fighting in the War of Independence and in subsequent battles. It is a solemn day during which all places of entertainment are closed and two-minute sirens are sounded throughout all of Israel, one in the evening to mark the beginning of the holiday and one in the morning, prior to the nation's public memorial ceremony. During the sirens' soundings, [the entire country comes to a complete stop](#): bulldozers are turned off, cranes hang empty in the air, and cars get parked on the sides of streets as their occupants stand silently alongside their vehicles.

Scheduling Yom HaZikaron right before Yom HaAtzmaut is intended to remind people of the sacrifice soldiers and their families and friends have paid for Israel's independence and security. The transition demonstrates the importance of this day among Israelis, most of whom have served in the armed forces or have a connection with people who were killed during military service.

Yom HaZikaron begins with an official ceremony at the Western Wall, as the flag of Israel is lowered to half-staff. Places of entertainment are closed for the day by law and radio and television stations broadcast programs about Israel's wars and that convey the somber mood of the day.

Numerous public ceremonies are held throughout Israel, including a national ceremony at the military cemetery on Mount Herzl, where many of Israel's leaders and soldiers are buried. Schools and public buildings often hold memorials for those from their community who died in Israel's wars.

In the evening, at the official ceremony of Israel Independence Day on Mount Herzl, the day draws to a close when the Israeli flag is returned to full-staff.



Yom HaAtzmaut

(Israeli Independence Day – April 15) marks the anniversary of the establishment of the modern state of Israel in 1948. It is observed

on or near the 5th of the Hebrew month of Iyar on the Jewish calendar, which usually falls in April. It is preceded by [Yom HaZikaron](#) (Israeli Memorial Day).

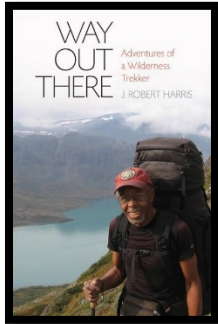
On May 14, 1948, soon-to-be Prime Minister David Ben Gurion declared the independence of the State of Israel, which was recognized by the United States, the Soviet Union, and other countries, though not by the surrounding Arab states.

Yom HaAtzmaut festivities begin the evening before the holiday, when Israelis take to streets across the country to attend outdoor concerts, parties, and barbecues, and to watch fireworks displays. Friends and families gather together the next day, usually outside or at nature reserves, museums, and other attractions, which are open to the public free of charge for the day. Also on Yom HaAtzmaut, teens compete in the country's Torah championship, and the Israel Prize, the country's highest honor, is awarded in a formal ceremony in Jerusalem to individuals who excel in their chosen field.

On the evening of the holiday, celebrants and officials gather at Mount Herzl in Jerusalem for a ceremony that includes speeches and a parade of soldiers and concludes with the lighting of 12 torches, representing the 12 Tribes of Israel.



Mark Your Calendars and Register for our next two Not to Be Missed Events!



"Trail Talk from an Old Dirt Kicker—Adventures of a Wilderness Trekker"

Sunday, April 18th, 5:00pm

Have you considered the "10 things people are most curious about regarding travel in the wilderness"? The skills, fearlessness, sense of adventure and surprise that you can take on a hike or a journey into the

unknown?

Join us as we hear of the adventures of J. Robert "J.R." Harris, a member of the prestigious Explorer's Club. J.R. grew up on the streets of New York City and his family lived in public housing. Out of these humble beginnings, Harris launched himself on expeditions around the world, mostly alone, in search of adventure and self-discovery, eventually becoming a prominent explorer and author.

In this lively, upbeat presentation, Harris reflects on his background and experiences as you learn what it's like to travel and survive in remote corners of the world. He discusses issues such as planning, fitness, wildlife, fear, skills, attitude, weather, being alone in the wild, and visiting indigenous people to learn about their culture.

J.R.'s extraordinary stories range from hardship to humor, and they include plenty of photos from exotic locations. You will hear about his desperate search for water in the mountains of Australia, and how he finds his way after breaking his compass in the trackless wilds of Newfoundland, and why he believes that by failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.

Q&A follows J.R.'s presentation

\$20 Presentation Only

\$40 Presentation with an Autographed copy of J.R.'s acclaimed book: *"Way Out There, Adventures of a Wilderness Trekker."*

Sponsors: Beth Cort & The Lambourne Institute for Life Mastery



White Supremacy Here & Abroad

Dr. Jason Blazakis

Sunday, May 23, 2021 5:00 - 6:00pm

Meet & Greet 6:00 - 7:00 Speaker

Dr. Blazakis will discuss "Counterterrorism Research on White Supremacist Movements".

He has been working on extremism research projects, studying far-right extremism messaging online, why certain messages resonate with audiences, what key phrases, words, are being used to spread that message, and what messaging is effective or not. Learn about the Increased spotlight on various white supremacist movements and the threats of domestic terrorism in recent months and weeks.

Break bread with friends and family with Hors D'oeuvres and a bottle of wine during our first hour. You can pick these up at CBI or we'll make other arrangements. Catered by Jeninni Kitchen and Wine Bar in Pacific Grove.

\$54 per household – Limited to 40 sign-ups!

Sponsors: Beth Cort, Marlene & Gadi Maier

To attend, please call the office at 831.624.2015 or email us at shalomcbi@aol.com. Login information will be sent following registration.



Ladies Paint Night—A HUGE Success!
Thanks to Paul Richmond for sharing his talents, sponsoring the event with his husband Dennis

Niekro, along with Joanne & Dr. Roger Shiffman, Wendy Rosenthal & Monica Browning. As Rabbi Bruce stated, "I've heard nothing but RAVE reviews about the evening. It was fun, educational, stimulating and just an all-around great event—a huge hit with much joy, laughter, learning, and heart-warming togetherness."

Please join the
Congregation Beth Israel
for a special
Yom HaShoah - Day of Holocaust Remembrance
event featuring a virtual film screening of



View the film any time between April 1st and April 8th

Join Playwright Anna Smulowitz & Terezin Cast
for a Live, Zoom Q&A Discussion
Thursday, April 8th at 7:00 PM PST

YOM HASHOAH
We will never forget



REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Tickets for Temple Members are complimentary:
<https://cutt.ly/TerezinTempleMembers>

Tickets for non-Members can be purchased for \$25 per viewing household:
<https://cutt.ly/TerezinNonTemple>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Gabriela Lipsky	1	Barbara Mitchell	18
Joshua Kosmont	2	Arina Ganeles	21
Jason Togneri	3	Pauline Troia	21
Jana Stiebel	4	Robert Fenton	22
Bill Pardue	5	Ruthie Pack	22
Angelika Lipow	7	Rizal Sidney Baguio	23
Eli'Noar Lipow	7	Elizabeth Heff	23
Michael Leavy	9	Rory Lakind	23
Julie Chase	11	Mitchel Winick	23
Myles Elliot Dau	11	Gary Simon	24
Poppy Esther Dau	11	Peter Levin	25
Robert Kershner	12	Steven Goldberg	26
Marshal Blatt	13	Daniel Robbins	26
Larry Solow	13	David Schnitzer	26
Abra Teitler	14	Brian Ellinoy	27
Vivi Fenwick	15	Makayla Schnitzer	28
Richard Kreitman	16	Susan Rosen	29
Barry Rund	16	Alison Baguio	30
Elizabeth Grogin	17		
Michael Newton	17		

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

Welcome new CBI members Jennie Rubinshteyn, Yaroslav Faybishenko, and their 3 children.

Congratulations to Kate Popky who has been nominated for a National Jefferson Award. Kate is the daughter of Lenny & Tricia Popky.

We mourn the passing of longtime CBI members Ilona Milch and Dena Weber. May their memories be for a blessing.



Congregation Beth Israel
April 2021
Nisan ~ Iyar 5781

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>All CBI services, programs, & classes Accessible online or by phone. Look for links in the weekly edition of CBI this Week via email.</p> <p>Links for Religious School and Hebrew School provided by Teachers.</p> 	29	30	<p>31</p> <p>No Hebrew School</p> <p>7:00 PM Pesach Family Fun Hour</p>	1 APRIL	<p>2</p> <p>7:30 PM Family Shabbat Services with Birthday Blessings Via Zoom</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study via Zoom</p>
<p>4</p> <p>No Religious School</p>	5	6	<p>7</p> <p>4:30 PM Hebrew School – Zoom</p> <p>6:30 Aleynu on Zoom</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Yom Hashoah</p> <p>7:00 PM Yom Hashoah Event with Terezin cast members on Zoom</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>Traditions</p> <p>7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services via Zoom</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:30 AM Shabbat Service & Study with 6th & 7th grades joining us. via Zoom</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9:30 AM on Zoom Religious School</p>	12	13	<p>14</p> <p>Yom HaZikaron</p> <p>4:30 PM Hebrew School – Zoom</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Yom Ha'Atzma'ut</p>  <p>12:00 PM Lunch Outside at CBI</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5:30 PM Tot Shabbat</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Services via Zoom</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study via Zoom</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9:30 AM on Zoom Religious School</p> <p>5:00 PM At Your Home w/CBI Event "Way out There – Adventures of a Wilderness Trekker" with J.R. Harris</p>	19	<p>20</p> <p>7:00 PM CBI Executive Committee</p>	<p>21</p> <p>4:30 Hebrew School - Zoom</p> <p>6:30 Aleynu on Zoom</p>	22	<p>23</p>  <p><i>Shabbat Shalom!</i></p> <p>7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services via Zoom</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study via Zoom</p>
25	26	<p>27</p> <p>7:00 PM CBI Board of Trustees</p>	<p>28</p> <p>4:30 Hebrew School - Zoom</p>	29	<p>30</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Services via Zoom with Anniversary Blessings</p>	<p>1 MAY</p> <p>10:30 AM Shabbat Service & Study with 6th & 7th grades joining us. via Zoom</p>



Torah Connections:

Vol. 155 April 2021, 5781

By Michael L. Waxer

Is it time to be Afraid?

During this pandemic, and during this time of civil unrest, and during this time of science forecasting doom in the near future, and seeing history being re-written before our eyes... it is very easy to be afraid.

Illness and death are certainly reasonable things to fear. We often feel helpless to fully understand illness and why some get very sick while others may show no symptoms. Furthermore, over the past fifty years, arguable the best fifty years in human history, we have been told of one 'end of life as we know it' prediction after another. What does the Torah say about how we should deal with all the uncertainties that plague us today?

Judaism traditionally finds 613 mitzvot (commandments) in the Torah, of which 365 are things to avoid (such as committing murder), while 248 are things we should do (such as observing the Sabbath each week). Most of the mitzvot are stated once in the Torah. Some are mentioned twice, such as the Ten Commandments, which are stated once in Exodus (Shmot), and repeated in Deuteronomy (Devarim). The slight differences that often appear in the repetition are studied in depth, to help us maximize the insight we can gain from mitzvot that are repeated.

Some mitzvot are said three times, such as 'Do not boil a kid in its mother's milk'. From this repeated command, many of our Kashrut practices are derived. It is said first in Exodus (Shmot) 23:19, then repeated in Exodus 34:26, and repeated yet again in Deuteronomy (Devarim) 14:21.

Some say that the single most repeated command in all of Torah is of the form: '**Fear not**' or '**Do not be afraid**', which appears in some form in Torah about 20 times. One of the better known verses is in Deuteronomy (Devarim) 3:22:

"Do not be afraid of them; the Lord your God himself will fight for you."

Another way to look at this commandment is to remember the contrast between the two worlds we exist in, the **physical world** and the **spiritual world**. Recently a friend was telling me how sad and depressed he was becoming with all the negative news... worldwide clashes over lack of resources. Historically the main reason for wars is to gain resources, whether it is land, minerals, food, energy, water...

But in the Spiritual world it is the exact opposite: Each of our spiritual energies can combine and it becomes part of a unity, the same unity that is in the famous Jewish prayer, '**Hear Israel, Adonai is God, Adonai is one**' (called the 'Shma'). We can understand this by observing how a candle can share its flame with another candle. This sharing of a resource does not diminish it at all, in fact, it becomes larger. Through this example we can understand how thru the giving of something it actually increases. Love is typically thought

of in this same manner... the more one loves, the more love there is.

Most resources in the Physical world are **reduced** when shared. We observe this and are taught it from a young age, that we need to produce more because resources get consumed. **The physical world is set up as a competition** to some extent, where each person seeks out and tries to hold onto enough resources to live. Yet, our spiritual side has an opposite nature. **Spiritually, we don't compete for resources.** Rather, we can harness spiritual energy thru blessings, mitzvot, loving each other, walking humbly with HaShem. Spiritually we are able to share and spread this energy. **It is additive, and it does not diminish as we spread it. As we share it, it actually increases and grows.**

The nature of these two universes are opposite. In the Physical world we compete for resources, and most things are subtractive... you have a pie, you give half to someone and you are left with half a pie. **The Spiritual world is additive, wherein your 'soul' or 'neshama' is strengthened by other neshama's, and together they increase the 'unity'.** It can be difficult to understand this since we are very rooted in the physical, but remember the example of love, as we all know that the more love that there is, the more love is created.

Fear is very prevalent in our world today, and it could be that the media and politicians sell us one fear after another. **Fear, in a manner of speaking, can be weaponized**, with the purpose of lowering us, controlling us, and moving us away from our spiritual half. **The more we each become convinced that we need to be afraid, the more we are imprisoned in this physical world.** Those who might wish to control us are not aware of this Torah dictate, **Do Not Fear!**

Instead of responding with fear to the constant stream of massive problems that are fed to us in this physical world, we should focus on how we can **strengthen our spiritual self**, and draw closer to HaShem. **Those attributes which get strengthened when shared, rather than diminished, is a keyway to lifting ourselves out of this physical panic. Converting everyday actions to a higher level (we call this holiness)** is a mechanism that harnesses positive spiritual energy and helps to lift up our physical world.

No matter how much others may try to create fear in you, try to follow this Torah commandment, **to not fear**. Simple ways to start include performing mitzvot, or consider reciting the Shma prayer each morning, or the Modeh Ani (morning thanks), or just start by observing the Ten Commandments, or focus on the 4th commandment, to observe the Sabbath each week. Or, even simpler, follow the summary of enlightenment, so eloquently stated in the book of Micah, **"...act justly, love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God"** (Micah 6:8)

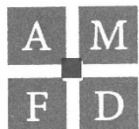
This Torah Connection was partially inspired by a talk by Dennis Prager, but is the sole responsibility of the author and specifically does NOT necessarily reflect those of the Board of Trustees of CBI, CBI, its membership, Reform Judaism, or Judaism. Please send any comments to the author at: mlwaxer@sbcglobal.net.

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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 most Jews on the Monterey Peninsula. The Congregation sponsors weekly worship services on Shabbat evening and Shabbat morning; observances of all holidays and festivals; and formal educational programs from toddler through adult. We operate our own school on weekend mornings and midweek afternoons, and we also maintain a Judaic library.

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Parshiot

April 3, Passover Shabbat

T: Exodus 33:12-34:26
H: Ezekiel 36:37-37:14

April 10, Shemini

T: Leviticus 9:1-11:47
H: II Samuel 6:1-7:17

April 17, Tazria, Metzora

T: Leviticus 12:1-15:33
H: II Kings 4:42 – 5:19

April 24, Achrei Mot, Kedoshim

T: Leviticus 16:1-20:27
H: Ezekiel 22:1-19