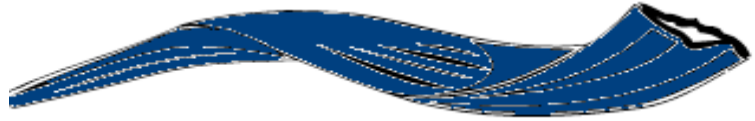


SHOFAR



Monthly Newsletter of the Monterey Peninsula Jewish Community

www.carmelbethisrael.org



Carmel Jewish Film Festival Returns March 12-24

Presented in partnership with the 2022 East Bay International Jewish Festival, the 2022 Carmel Jewish Film Festival will run March 12-24, primarily as a virtual event. Because of the partnership, Carmel JFF fans will enjoy a greatly expanded array of 29 films. At least two films will be offered online each day, usually a documentary and a feature film; many of the films will be followed by a speaker.

Each film link must be purchased individually through the Carmel JFF website beginning Feb. 1. The films will have a viewing window of 5 to 7 days; once you start a film, you will have 48 hours to complete your viewing, even if you begin watching on the last day of the window. See the entire schedule, with each film's viewing window, at the Carmel JFF website (<https://www.carmeljff.org>).

We are counting on the support of both past and new Sponsors to help with this fundraiser for CBI.

Please refer to the sponsorship benefits in this month's Shofar. There are descriptions of the Opening Night and Closing Night films. It is simple to become a Sponsor. You can either click the link on the website or send a check to CBI (5716 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel 93923) or call the CBI office at 831-624-2015.

As a virtual festival, we may not have the array of benefits offered in the past, but you will feel good knowing that your donation will help pay for repair of the water damage to CBI's sanctuary caused by the storms this past December.

Continued on page 5



Being Jewish in the World

CBI Vice President Beryl Levinger will once again bring her insights and wisdom to CBI. Over six Shabbat services, she will lead interactive, 20-minute dialogues (in some cases supported by short videos) that will be in place of the Rabbi's sermon. Each session will focus on a different way to express Jewish identity in the world. Sessions will touch on cultural, religious, and ethnic aspects of Jewish identity using cases of some famous, nearly famous, and utterly unknown people. The sessions are tentatively scheduled for February 18, March 18, April 8, May 20, June 24 and July 15. .



From the Rabbi's Desk...

As a young child I loved playing a board game "Chutes and Ladders." If you were lucky enough you would land on a ladder and skip forward. Roll the wrong number

and you landed on a chute and slid back down the board. For some silly reason I was always happy, almost overjoyed to climb the ladder but almost in tears when I had to slide backwards when landing on those chutes.

I share these memories with you because that is how I have felt recently dealing with modern day life. We finally seem to be getting ahead with so many getting vaccinated and booster shots and then suddenly a new variant comes along and Omicron causes us all to slide backwards. Suddenly we are back to online services and not eating inside restaurants. Lately there seem to be too many chutes and not enough ladders on our game of life. Members have shared with me how they are struggling with depression or simply overly frustrated with the current challenges. No one wants to go back to living on their screens or hiding behind closed doors. Who is not tired of wearing masks whenever we venture out into public areas?

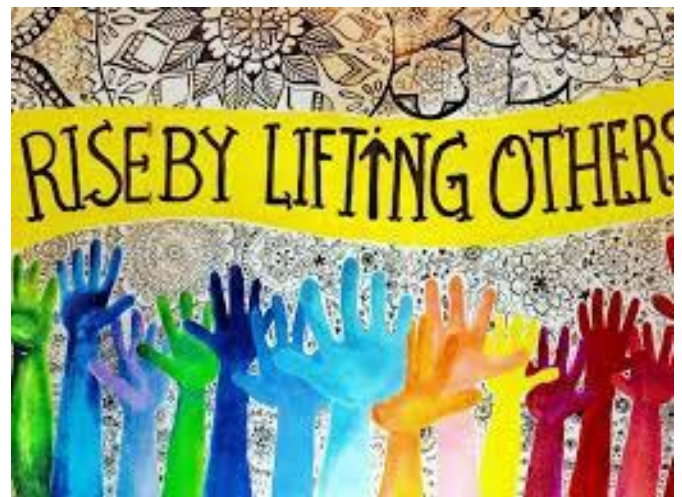
What's that old lesson? When life gives you lemons, make lemonade (or whiskey sours!). Not to simplify the situation, but let's remember to count our blessings and not our curses. I'm reading more novels now than I have in years. We finally got Netflix and are enjoying movies and some great shows. Susan has always been a fabulous cook and she is doing even more in the kitchen. To combat her delicious meals I am trying to play more tennis and get in some extra exercise again. I am making more phone calls and speaking with people with whom I have lost contact. Who knows, I might even get to that closet that needs to be cleaned out.

What has become abundantly clear in recent weeks is people really appreciate those little acts of

kindness that we can perform. I put away a woman's shopping cart when she had finished unloading it next to my car and she was overly grateful. Patients at CHOMP (I am not going into areas where there are patients with the coronavirus) are thrilled when I visit them as a chaplain. At Abraham's Tent on Thursdays, those picking up meals could not be more appreciative. Nothing lifts my spirits more than feeling like I am helping others; especially now.

At last month's virtual PARR convention (we had to cancel the in-person gathering) my rabbinic colleagues discussed how important it is right now to strengthen human connections. While this is not easy when most conversations are online or over the phone, connecting to one another remains essential. So please, call me if you want to talk. I'm happy to zoom with you as well. Some of my colleagues are enjoying a "happy hour" when they sit in their homes, pour themselves a favorite beverage (alcohol is not a requirement) and just share stories over a zoom meeting.

I look forward to when coronavirus becomes like the flu, something not to ignore, but we learn to take appropriate precautions and live with it. By the time you receive this bulletin, I hope we are back to praying together in our sanctuary. If not this month, then next month' we will be together physically. Until that time, let's remain united in spirit and support and love of one another. Our CBI family is strong and will not be fractured by a few chutes along our path. I pray we all remain strong as we continue to lift up each others' spirits. Amen.





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

Torah (Kohelet/Ecclesiastes) says “two are better than one, for should they fall, one can raise the other; but woe to him who is alone and falls with no companion to raise him!”, as well as “...A threefold cord is not readily broken”. Surely, these texts are about companionship at the individual level and, equally importantly, solidarity at the community level.

Here is an example of that Support and Solidarity: Many of you know that Bev and I went to Rochester, NY to spend Thanksgiving with family. Naturally, we came for family, not for the weather! A medical emergency kept us here through late January, but we have gotten home, a bit worse for wear, but very happy to be back. During our stay in Rochester two things kept our spirits high: The friends and family we have in Rochester, and our CBI friends and family. You have been loving stalwarts for us, providing validation of the texts in Kohelet. We had many more supporting cords than the proverbial three, and we are thankful to all of you.

I said two months ago that “ *It has been a difficult time, with COVID, with backing-and-filling of the rules surrounding COVID, and with a recent spike in deaths in our community*”. Well, some things have changed for the better, while others, frustratingly, have not. Happily, the spike in deaths within our CBI community has not repeated itself. On the other hand, the rules continue to be highly variable and continue to be frustrating. Our Covid Protocols at CBI continue to evolve as the CDC and California Department of Health and Monterey County Health Department change their directions and guidelines. Here are our current rules:

· Hebrew/Religious Sunday School continues meeting outside, wearing face masks and with physical distancing. This is in alignment with the comfort level of the majority of our families as expressed in a late December survey. Our building

continues to remain closed to everyone during school to continue to ensure the safety of our students and families. Do not worry: Students will continue to have access to bathrooms.

· Currently, any event held at CBI requires all participants inside our building to wear masks at all times. Moreover, and this follows the practice of many other URJ-affiliated synagogues, many of our programs and services will be returning to online only participation, until the Covid situation abates.

I know this is difficult and frustrating and seemingly never-ending. I agree with the first two descriptions, but not the third.....it will end. Hang in there, remembering that “*A threefold cord is not readily broken.*” Please call the CBI office at 831-624-2015 if you need information about how to connect to our CBI Zoom services and programs. Our weekly CBI eblasts will keep you informed. You have my thanks and respect for supporting these efforts to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Steve Ryter has served CBI as the outstanding Chair of the Investment Committee for ten years. He has led that group through the vagaries of the stock and bond markets, and he has been guided by the twin objectives of protecting CBI’s assets while seeking a conservative rate of growth. Now Steve is prepared to release the reins on this Committee, meaning that we need a new Chair, and we have at least one seat to fill. A knowledge of investments is needed, so if you are interested, please contact me. I want to express my appreciation and admiration to Steve for his leadership and commitment. Kol HaKavod, Steve.

May all our efforts to improve security and return to normal interpersonal activities bring us peace.

Dan

Dan Nussbaum

(C) (831) 324-3228



**From Our
Cantorial Soloist
and Director of
Education
Suzanne Guinane**

The *Talmud* tells us that “when the month of *Adar* arrives, we increase in joy” to welcome a season of miracles. We are commanded to be joyful! Accordingly, the *Talmud* tells us that this month is fortuitous for the Jewish people.

This month, *Adar I*, is an added month giving us a Jewish leap year—a *shanah meuberet* (“a pregnant year”). [The Jewish leap year](#), which occurs seven times in a 19-year cycle, has 13 months so that the lunar-based Jewish year (which is 354.37 days) should remain aligned with the solar year (365.25 days) and seasons.

It is important to keep the calendars aligned in order for the festivals to retain their positions relative to the seasons as prescribed by the *Torah*. The added month is called *Adar I* and is inserted before the month of *Adar* (termed *Adar II* in leap years).

Adar is the official “happy month.” In a leap year, we have two months of extra happiness! So, what does this mean for us? We have two months to increase our joy a little bit each day! *Adar I* begins at sundown on Tuesday, February 1 (30 *Sh’vat*) and ends at sundown on March 3 (30 *Adar I*) giving us what I like to refer to as our *Purim* Warm-Up! When we have a Jewish leap year, *Purim* is celebrated during *Adar II*. This means that *Purim* will begin at sundown on Wednesday, March 16 (13 *Adar II*). As the song goes, “It happened on the 14th of *Adar*.” This will also give us an extra month of singing another of my favorite songs,

“Beeeeeeeeeeeeeee happy, happy, happy it’s *Adar*!

Be happy, happy, happy it’s *Adar*!

Be happy, happy, happy, happy, happy, happy, happy, happy, happy, happy, happy it’s *Adar*!”.





Lunch with the Rabbi

If you are vaccinated, please join Rabbi Greenbaum this month on **Wednesday, February 9 at noon** at an outdoor table on the patio of Baja Cantina, located about a mile east of CBI. Because of the

threat of another wave of Covid, if it rains we will postpone this lunch. This month the Rabbi will lead a discussion on "Science and Religion." Can one believe in both science and God? Is it time to put aside the creation story found in Genesis? Are we trying to play the role of God when we create "superfoods" using genetics? Come prepared to question and offer your thoughts. Call the CBI office at 624-2015 to RSVP. We will order off their regular menu so expect lunch to cost approximately \$15-\$20.



BEST YEARS

Best Years Friday Stroll

With the ongoing concern of Covid-19 and its threat of spread when in close proximity indoors, let's get together for an outdoor event. Hopefully the weather will cooperate! Let's meet in the parking lot of River State Beach on **Friday, February 25 at 1:30** in the afternoon. We will enjoy a leisurely stroll along Scenic Drive for 30-45 minutes and then move to the Crossroads for a tasty dessert at Sweet Reba's! To RSVP for this outdoor gathering and free sweet treats please call the CBI office at 624-2015. Also, let us know if you need a ride to this event.



Continued from page 1

Depending on the status of the Covid pandemic, we hope to have an in-person Opening Night and Closing Night, where we can

enjoy receptions and view the films together. If we are unable to have in-person events, or if a Sponsor chooses not to attend in person, a film link will be provided (in accordance with the Sponsorship category.) A thank-you reception will be planned for a later date.

Thanking you in advance for your support of the Carmel Jewish Film Festival,

Susan Greenbaum and Marsha Kelly, CJFF Co-chairs

Please see page 8 for additional sponsorship information and a preview of two film.



CBI Book Club

Dear Jewish Book Clubbers,

IMPORTANT: You must be fully vaccinated and boosted against Covid-19 in order to attend Book Club. Also, you cannot come to Book Club if you are not feeling well or if you learn between February 2 and February 8 (the five-day period leading up to the Book Club meeting) that you have been exposed to someone with Covid-19.

We plan to continue to try to meet in person, but we will be watchful regarding the ever-changing status of the pandemic.

Here are our next two dates and book selections.

February 8, 1:30 PM, home of Suellen Rubin. Book—**THE LOST SHITTEL** by Max Gross.

March 8, 1:30 PM, host home to be announced. Book—**OUR COUNTRY FRIENDS** by Gary Shteyngart.

Our warmest thank-you to Suellen for her continuing hospitality in hosting Book Club. Please RSVP to Suellen (suellenrubin@hotmail.com / 915-4107) for directions or if you need to cancel.

TODAH RABBAH!

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

UJC Donations

Dr. David Awerbuck & Dr. Astrid Holberg
Robert & Raya Hoskinson
Kenneth & Shelley Kroopf
Lewis A. & Sandra Leader
Barbara Lipman
Joseph & Carol Mironov
Wendy Rosenthal
David Sabih & Anna Swartley: in honor of Michael Siegal
Neil & Jan Ticker
Martin & Karen Wiskoff

General Endowment

David & Barbara Ehrenpreis
Lester Tockerman: in memory of Bev Nussbaum's brother Darryl Davis and in honor of Bev Nussbaum

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Alisa Fineman & Kimball Hurd: in memory of Bari Tolliver
Lewis A. & Sandra Leader: in memory of John Nisley

General Donations

Anita Artstein-Dunsay: in memory of Maurice Artstein
Marcia & Eric Birken: in memory of Darryl Davis
Susan Kapitanoff: in honor of Mildred Kline
Alisa Fineman & Kimball Hurd: in memory of Ann Sams
Ellyn Gelson: Anniversaries & Birthdays January
Ellyn Gelson: in memory of Bernard Gelson and Ada Schneider Kaplan
Ellyn Gelson: in memory of Darryl Davis

Sharon Hoffman: In memory of Dr. Jerry I. Hoffman

Thomas & Ellen G. Krause: in memory of Ellen's father Harry Rujas

Cele Passin: in memory of Arthur Shapiro

Susan Rosen: in memory of Bari Toliver

Wendy Rosenthal: in memory of beloved sister Sheryl

Wendy Rosenthal: in memory of Ann Sams



Gary & Judy Simon: in memory of Darryl Davis

Lester Tockerman: in memory of Pinchas Tockerman

Michael & Debora Waxer: in honor of David Sabih and Anna Swartley

Donations-Religious School

Daniel & Louise Riddell-Kaufman



Dr. Brynie Kaplan Dau, MS, DVM

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www.pacificgroveanimalhospital.com



Cemetery Gan Hazikaron (Garden of Remembrance)

CBI has purchased 24 additional plots for our cemetery. As a result of this purchase **the price to purchase plots will be going up on March 15**. For the next 6 weeks plots will be available at the original price of \$3600 for members and \$4500 for non-members. Starting on March 16, the price will be \$5500 for members and \$6600 for non-members.

Here are some frequently asked questions about the only Jewish cemetery in Monterey County.

Is it expensive to buy a plot in Gan Hazikaron? No. If you purchase by March 15, It's just \$3600 for each plot if you are a member of CBI. It costs \$4500 to purchase a plot if you are not a member.

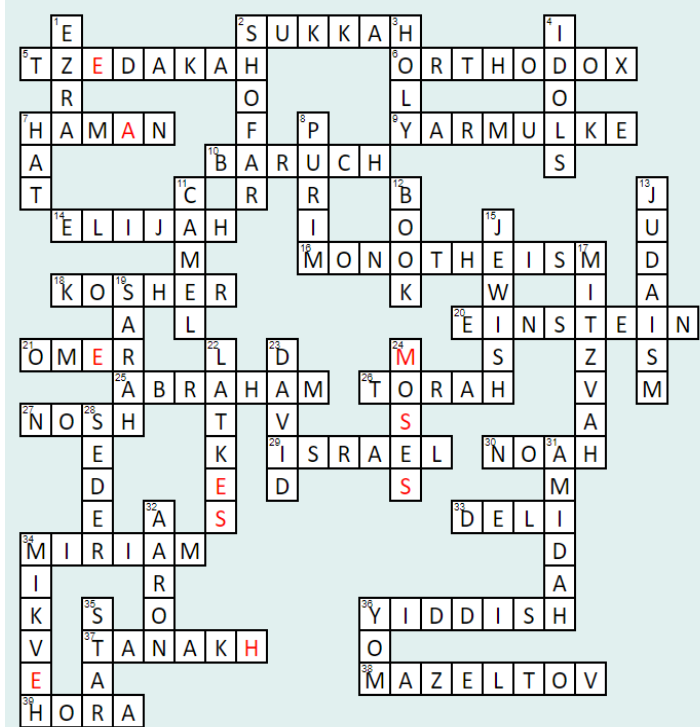
Can cremated remains be buried in Gan Hazikaron? Yes, they can. There are already several urns with cremains buried there.

Can 2 people be buried in 1 plot? Yes. There is a 50% cost for the 2nd interment. One plot can be used for a double depth burial. Also three urns with cremains can be buried in one plot.

Can my non-Jewish spouse be buried next to me? Yes, they can. We are an inclusive congregation and that includes Gan Hazikaron. Our non-Jewish relatives can also be interred at our cemetery and our rabbi can help with their funerals as well.

How do I pre-plan or purchase burial plots? We invite you to call our CBI executive director, Julie Chase, who can help you pick out burial plots and reserve them today. Plots can be paid for in installments and doing so often relieves stress from your family members following a death.

Hopefully, we have answered all of your questions here, but if we missed any, please contact Julie or Rabbi Greenbaum in our office with your inquiries.




Answers to the puzzle on page 14



A Message from Your Caring Committee

The Caring Committee is here to serve you. Many of your fellow congregants have volunteered to help after surgery or illness by providing meals or transportation, or just visits and friendship. Because of HIPPA laws, which protect your privacy, only the person in need or their representative can request help. When you want the help of the Caring Committee call the Rabbi or office staff. This is the only way we will know of your need. Should you be mourning we can help by providing a minyan, food, or other services. We are eager to help and invite you to contact us

	Benefactor	Event Underwriter	Film Underwriter	Producer	Movie Buff	Reception Sponsor
SPONSOR BENEFITS 2022	\$2500+	\$1000+	\$500+	\$300+	\$150+	\$85+
*Opening AND Closing Night Reception, including 2 Films	*	*	*			
*Opening OR Closing Night Reception, including 1 Film				*	*	*
All Film/Speaker Pass (virtual)	*	*				
Business Logo with Link on Website Home page	*	*				
Business Logo with Link on Website Sponsor and Visit Us pages	*	*	*			
Recognition on Lobby Poster and in the CBI Shofar	*	*	*	*	*	
Recognition on Website Sponsor page	*	*	*	*	*	*
Business Card-size ad in the CBI Shofar for one year	*					
Business Card-size ad in the CBI Shofar for 4 months		*				

To become a sponsor, visit carmeljff.org or call the CBI office at 831-624-2015

OPENING NIGHT: SATURDAY, MARCH 12 *The Automat* USA, 2021, 92 min., English

While it's been decades since the restaurant chain Horn & Hardart was open to hungry customers, it's still remembered as a great place to eat—affordable meals accompanied by speedy food service at communal tables. In this must-see documentary, the phenomena's automated dining experience is recounted by a host of celebrities who add their often humorous and always insightful commentary to this documentary, including Mel Brooks (who sings a tribute to the restaurant), Starbucks founder Howard Schultz, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Secretary of State Colin Powell and Elliot Gould. In *The Automat*, we watch a business climb to its peak success and then grapple with fast food in a forever-changed America.

CLOSING NIGHT: THURSDAY, MARCH 24 *Persian Lessons*
Russia/Germany/Belarus, 2020, 128 minutes, German/subtitles

Crafted with powerful acting and a wry sense of humor, *Persian Lessons* tells the story of Gilles who agrees to teach a language he does not know—Farsi—to Klaus Koch. The Nazi camp commandant is planning on a post-war move to Iran and mistakenly believes that Gilles is Persian. Although the young Belgian Jew teaches the officer nearly 600 words, he fears that his invented "Farsi" will be revealed for what it is...gibberish.

****It is our hope to have an Opening and Closing Night reception with an in-person film in the CBI Social Hall. If a sponsor does not feel comfortable attending an in-person event, they will also be given the film link. If receptions are not possible in March, we will hold a reception at a later time when it is safe to do so.***

The Carmel Jewish Film Festival is a non-profit 501(c)(3). Sponsor benefits are deductible over and above the value of goods or services received. For assistance, questions or concerns, please call 831-624-2015.

Bat Mitzvah

The time has come, Ruby and Maezy Browning are called to the Torah for their Bat Mitzvah on February 26, 2022. I'm blessed to hold the title mom for my amazing daughters. They keep me on my toes with the sparkle in their eyes and their dance moves in the kitchen! At a very young age, both girls elected to collect donations for the local animal rescue, instead of receiving birthday presents. I've never seen kids more excited to give gifts than to receive them. They truly have generous hearts and loving spirits.



Ruby is 13 yrs. old & currently in 8th grade. Her passion for reading is admired by many. Her unwavering disposition is cool, calm, and collected. As a born observer, she would cautiously approach the world around her. It couldn't be more fitting and in alignment with one of her favorite early childhood books, "Ruby, in Her Own Time." Whether she was learning to swim, ride a bike, or try a new food, Ruby does it with a smile and sense of ease.

Maezy is 12 yrs. old & currently in 6th grade. Her passion for the creative arts is inspiring. She's naturally gifted and artistically talented, not only on paper but also with music. Maezy can make her vision come to life. Further, if she hears a song that moves her, she'll figure it out on the piano. Maezy is on the basketball team at PGMS and is enjoying the team sport. She's always been creative and curious. She has a zest for life that continues to remind me to be courageous

and live my authentic self as she does.

Ruby and Maezy both have been playing and studying piano since kindergarten. They were active on the Monterey Bay Swim Club until Covid shut that down. Both girls love to cook and bake. They are the best of friends even through the growing pains. They have diligently been studying and preparing for their Bat Mitzvah. Camp Newman is their "home away from home" as veteran campers, they love being Jewish and feeling a sense of connection with a larger population of Jewish kids their age. I could not be prouder and more humbled to be their mom.

Mitzvah Project = Support our Book Drive: please DONATE new or gently used books to our book drive= for children ages 0 to 12 years, both English and Spanish books welcome!

Ruby and Maezy's love for reading truly began during infancy upon my lap. Ruby loved the big sister role and continued to read to Maezy. There is no better organization for their Mitzvah Project than the Read To Me Project.

Mission: "Read to Me Project helps under-served children achieve kindergarten readiness and a lifetime of literacy by empowering school age brothers and sisters to read to their younger siblings at home. We also raise awareness about the literacy crisis and the need for language development and pre-reading skills during a child's first five years of life."



Please consider helping and support our Mitzvah project. Please **DONATE new or gently used books to our book drive.** The **Read to Me Project is looking for books for children ages 0 to 12 years, both English and Spanish books welcome.** Book bins will be ready for your donations and conveniently located in these 3 locations: Congregation Beth Israel: 5716 Carmel Valley Rd., Carmel; Forest Grove Elementary Office: 1065 Congress Ave., Pacific Grove; Over the Moon Realty office: 623 Lighthouse Ave., Downtown Pacific Grove. Please contact Monica Browning with any questions: 831-601-9038.

Monica Browning

Mazel Tov Ruby & Maezy!!



Congregation Beth Israel
February 2022
Shevat ~ Adar I

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 4:00 PM Hebrew Liturgy Class	3	4 6:00 PM Family Shabbat Services with Birthday Blessings  only	5 10:30 Shabbat Torah Study  only
6 9:00 AM Religious School I-Help Men	7	8	9 12:00 PM Lunch with Rabbi  4:00 PM Hebrew Liturgy Class	10	11 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services  only	12 10:30 Shabbat Torah Study  only
13 9:00 AM Religious School 1:00 PM Aleynu	14	15 7:00 PM CBI Executive Committee Meets	16 4:00 PM Hebrew Liturgy Class	17	18  Traditions 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Also on  With Beryl Levinger speaking	19 10:30 Shabbat Torah Study Also on 
20 No Religious School	21 Presidents Day CBI Office Closed 	22 7:00 PM CBI Board of Trustees Meets	23 4:00 PM Hebrew Liturgy Class	24	25 1:30 PM Best Years Stroll 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services with Anniversary Blessings Also on 	26 10:30 Shabbat Service when Maezy & Ruby Browning become B'not Mitzvah  Mazel Tov!
27 9:00 AM Religious School 1:00 PM Aleynu	28	1 March	2 4:00 PM Hebrew Liturgy Class	3	4 6:00 PM Family Shabbat Services with Birthday Blessings Also on 	5 10:30 Shabbat Torah Study Also on 

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Ryan Fenwick	2
Alan Lefkof	2
Monica Browning	3
Hugo Gerstl	3
Adrienne Herman	3
Shifra Lyons	4
Michael Marshall	5
Robert Moskowitz	5
Nathaniel Carlyle	6
Andrea Carter	7
Sheri Chodosh	7
Michael Kean	7
Robert Weisskirch	8
Clark Miller	9
Jim Gumberg	10
Susan Platt	10
Ronald Kroll	12
Lewis Leader	12
Gail Bates	13
Hudson Donald Jacobson	13
Isabella Ann Jacobson	13
Thomas Krause	13
Leonard Laub	13
Deborah Stern	15
Constance Kean	16
Justine Geisler	18
Jillian Heisman	19
Creedence Stiebel	19
Malina Breaux	20
Catherine Goode	20
Diana Greenbaum	20
Marjory Kaplan	21
Samuel Goldberg	22
Joe Mello	22
Nina Patane	22
Ann Gordon	24
Suellen Rubin	24
Leslie Vitiello	24
Cantor Margaret Bruner	25
Melvin Gorelick	27

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Daniel & Beverly Nussbaum	6
Glen J. Grossman & Marce Humphrey	14
Charles & Deborah Kosmont	15
Megan & Robert Felthoven	19
Ellison & Maureen Wittels	24

Family News

We mourn the loss of Darryl Davis, beloved brother of Bev Nussbaum. May his memory be for a blessing.



CBI Interest-Free Loan

Because of the generosity of an anonymous donor, CBI continues to offer interest-free loans up to \$500 for CBI members. So far, only a handful of people have borrowed these funds. 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.

amazon.com
Smile

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



Despite "It" All

We begin the New Year, not with a "bang" but with a kind of muffled enthusiasm. Our efforts to create and attend meaningful events, share time together in-person, break bread, and attend meetings, are once again "on-hold" or modulated by safety protections of distancing and wearing masks. So Zoom it is! (Despite Zoom fatigue.)

And so we persist, despite it all. We carry on, fulfill our obligations, and greet our families and friends with love in our hearts, thankful for what we do have, while being very aware of those who require all kinds of assistance.

I-HELP

We will be hosting the men on Sunday, February 6th. The Social Action Team will prepare dinner and lunch, and the Religious School parents of grades 5-6 are providing breakfast. Charlene & Matthew Schuss have created tailgate parties with viewing of the Super Bowl for over 11 years for our I-HELP guests. Since the date of Super Bowl is not the first Sunday in February, when we host the men, Charlene and Matthew will deliver the tailgate goodies to the Church where the men will be housed that Sunday, the 13th.

We offered to host the women for an extra time this January, on the 19th. One of the churches could not host them, so we are filling in for the 7 women currently involved. Another Church's congregants are providing the dinner as the women go to Gathering for Women for their breakfast and lunch.

On Monday, January 31st, we will host the women again, as this is our regular time—on months that have five Mondays. The Lambourne Institute for Life Mastery is providing the dinner, as it has many times over the past few years, in partnership with CBI.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

While the March in Seaside was cancelled as were the speakers at Oldemeyer, the ceremony of remembrance for Dr. King was available virtually, and we trust that some were able to view our local events. TV offered films, commentaries, and lots of flashbacks to the civil rights era and its activism. Sometimes I wonder, what's happened to the Dream, especially now, within the context of our struggle to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act.

Our ability to advocate for policy and legislation now are limited now primarily to virtual communications and actions....and despite it all, we carry on.

Arlene Krebs, Social Action Trustee
arlenekrebs123@gmail.com



The Reform Movement's Racial Justice Campaign

In 2020, the Reform Movement launched Every Voice, Every Vote: The Reform Movement's Civic Engagement Campaign with a focus on combatting voter suppression that particularly suppresses the votes and voices of Communities of Color. As Reform Jews, we are called to continue the fight for racial justice and fulfill the sacred work of creating a more just, compassionate, and whole world.

This campaign will address systemic racism by demanding policy change on the national level and on the state level to advocate for racially just policies. It will also focus on pushing members of the Reform Jewish community to do essential Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) and antiracism work within our communities and ourselves.

<https://rac.org/issues/racial-justice/racial-justice-campaign>



Torah Connections:

Vol. 165 February 2022, 5782

By Michael L. Waxer

Lions and Tigers and Bears, oh my!

Fear, perhaps the most debilitating of all emotions, was certainly a big part of this classical movie, The Wizard of Oz. In the Torah, fear is a huge topic, and there are numerous examples of fear taking hold and paralyzing us. There seems to be a consistent message in these stories, teaching us how to face fear. One of the reasons we are instructed to repeatedly study Torah is so we can remind ourselves of these stories, and learn from them since they are so relevant today.

One of my favorite Torah stories that illustrates this point is the recently freed Israelites complaining that they will die and that it would have been better to stay slaves in Egypt.

“And Pharaoh approached; the Children of Israel raised their eyes and there was Egypt coming after then, and they were fearful to the extreme; cry out did the Children of Israel to HaShem. They said to Moses, is it because of a lack of graves in Egypt that you took us to die in the Wilderness? What is this that you have done to us to take us out of Egypt.” (Exodus [Shemot] 14:10-11).

And in verse 13 we have, ***“Moses said to the people, Do not fear, stand firm, and see the salvation of HaShem that He will perform for you today....”*** (emphasis's added).

This classical exchange shows how strong fear can be, as the Israelites seem so ungrateful after just being freed from generations of slavery, the Egyptian decree that their male babies be murdered, and having just witnessed perhaps the greatest miracles of all time. Yet the people complain. The people are in a panic of fear... the people are afraid they will die in the desert.

So, what does this mean to us today? In our time, a lot of information is presented in a format that is designed to **create fear**. Hopefully all of you reading this article can recognize this, that many new scientific theories end with something like, “...and this could lead to the end of life as we know it.”

Even regular weather reports are increasingly filled with fear, such as a rainstorm being described as an ‘atmospheric river’. Or how fragile our environment gets described, where one day we might be in a ‘record drought’, and after a couple of rainstorms there may be widespread flooding. The Torah records climactic events as well, and we can learn a lot if we take notice.

The Middle East has what is called a Mediterranean climate. Here on the Monterey peninsula in California we too are one of the places on this planet that are described as having that climate type. One of the characteristics of a Mediterranean climate is that there are periodic droughts and floods, and droughts can lead to famine and the shifting of populations, as people compete for resources. In fact, droughts are so frequent the Torah gives us this amazing insight:

“There was a famine in the land, aside from the famine that was earlier that was in the days of Abraham...” (Genesis [Beresheet] 25:1)

The lesson for us should be clear. **We need to move away from letting ourselves be bombarded by the fear of the day.** Even regular news stories now use the term, ‘Breaking News Alert’. Lack of affordable housing is a ‘housing crisis’. There is also the ‘homeless crisis’, the ‘gas crisis’, the ‘micro-plastics in the ocean crisis’, the ‘plastic straw crisis’, the ‘social media crisis’, ‘the race crisis’, ‘the equity crisis’, and the list goes on and on.

How a person, or a society, addresses ‘fear’ in large part determines its level of freedoms. In these Torah examples, the young Israelites are saying they are willing to go back to slavery so they do not die in the desert. Moses and HaShem tell them that freedom is a precious thing and is something worth fighting for and protecting. They say to the people, **Do Not Fear, and Stand Firm.**

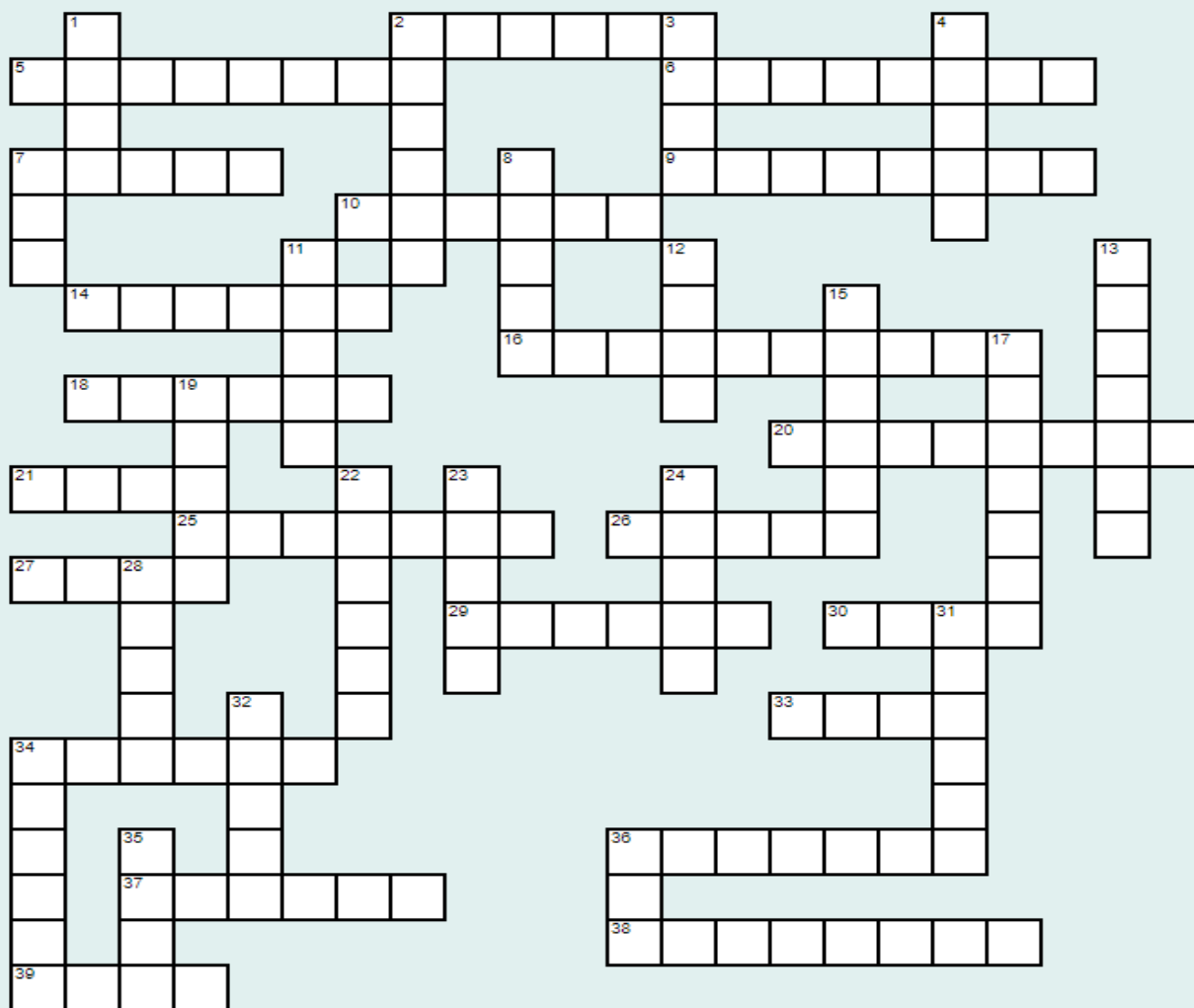
The Torah recognizes that humans have a need, so to speak, to fear... perhaps it is related to how fragile we are, needing nutrition each day, trying to avoid injury, trying to plan for resources, like water, when it has a fickle aspect due to the weather. The miracle and process of childbirth, how to fight disease, why we get sick, prolonging life, and the list goes on. Perhaps this need ‘to fear’ is related to helping each of us be more aware of our spiritual part, our *neshama*, as **the mysteries of physical existence helps open our eyes to all that is beyond the physical.**

This is perhaps the reason that the Torah commands us to **‘yerah (fear) HaShem’**. Focusing our physical fears with HaShem gives us a unique pathway to both address our physical shortcomings, while allowing maximum growth potential to develop spiritually. As HaShem commands us, **‘You shall be holy for I am holy’.**

The only true fear we should have should be ‘yerah Adonai’, and we should not entertain other fears. For everything else that inundates us with fear, we should follow Exodus 14:13, **“...Do not fear, stand firm, and see the salvation of HaShem that He will perform for you today...”**

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Jewish Knowledge



Across

- 2 Booth
- 5 Donating money to causes
- 6 Very religious Jews
- 7 Evil man associated with Purim
- 9 Males sometimes wear these
- 10 The word blessing in Hebrew
- 14 Prophet
- 16 Belief in one God
- 20 Famous scientist
- 21 You count this
- 25 Father of the multitude
- 26 Bible
- 27 Snack on in Yiddish
- 29 Jewish State
- 30 He had a boat
- 33 Get your sandwiches here
- 34 Moses' sister
- 36 Spoken by older Jews
- 37 Entirety of Hebrew Bible
- 38 Good luck
- 39 Circle dance

Down

- 1 A Scribe
- 2 Rams Horn
- 3 Means Kaddish
- 4 We do not pray to these
- 7 His was 3-cornered
- 8 Jewish "Halloween"
- 11 Cannot eat this animal
- 12 People of the _____
- 13 Religion
- 15 Who you are
- 17 Good deeds
- 19 She who is princess
- 22 Potato pancakes
- 23 2nd King of Israel
- 24 Prophet
- 28 Meal on Pesach
- 31 Essential prayers
- 32 Moses' brother
- 34 Ritual bath
- 35 ____ of David
- 36 "Day" in Hebrew

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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

February 5, Terumah

T: Exodus 25:11-27:19

H: I Kings 5:26-6:13

February 12, Tetzaveh

T: Exodus 27:20-30:10

H: Ezekiel 43:10-2

February 19, Ki Tisa

T: Exodus 30:11-34:35

H: I Kings 18:1-3

February 26, Vayakhel

T: Exodus 35:1-38:20

H: I Kings 7:40-50