Congregation Beth Israel Adar 1 - Adar 11, 5782

March 2022

SHOFAR



Monthly Newsletter of the Monterey Peninsula Jewish Community www.carmelbethisrael.org



March is Carmel Jewish Film Festival Month!

Hey Film Lovers . . . we are really hoping to have an inperson Opening and Closing Night this year! As of the time of the writing of this article, indoor mask mandates are going away. The events will be small and everyone will have to show proof of vaccination, but it's a start. Tickets will be limited to Sponsors, so how about getting those Sponsorships in.

The CJFF is partnering with the East Bay International Jewish Film Festival this year. There will be 29 amazing films and many special speakers. Check out the entire program at www.carmeliff.org.

You can purchase your Sponsorship on the website or call the CBI office at 831-624-2015. There is also Sponsorship information in this edition of the Shofar. Thank you for your support.

Susan Greenbaum & Marsha Kelly CJFF 2022 Co-chairs



Shabbat Guest Speakers

Our congregation is truly blessed. We have

amazing scholars with a variety of skills that add so much to our community.

This month we welcome Beryl Levinger to continue her "Being Jewish in the World" interactive dialogue at our **7:30 Shabbat services on March 18**. The following week, **March 25**, Rabbi Jeff Schulman will share a drash. Both Beryl and Jeff add so much to our Sabbath services.

We welcome them to the pulpit as they join Rabbi Greenbaum and our Cantorial Soloist Suzanne Guinane.

A reminder that all our services are now both in person and online. Please call the CBI office at 624-2015 if you have any questions regarding all our services and programs.



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 https://carmelbethisrael.org/learning/college-2/

Continued on page 4



From the Rabbi's Desk...

As I write this, Beijing is in the midst of hosting the Olympic Games. I am fascinated by the dedication of these Olympic athletes. They spend countless hours driving

themselves, trying to perfect their skills. Depending on the event, they might win or lose a race in just a fraction of a second. For the figure skaters, one small slip can end their hopes of winning a medal.

Some of the sports leave me wondering how they even attempt to perform the skills needed. The danger seems overwhelming. The tricks performed flying on a snowboard dozens of feet in the air over what is more like solid ice than hard packed snow seems crazy to me. And how does one learn to ski off a ramp and jump such huge distances without seriously hurting or even killing themselves?

I remember watching the "Wild World of Sports" with the opening description of "the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat." While we celebrate with the victors, one can only cringe with pain as the disappointment of loss appears on the faces of those who came so close, but still lose.

While I enjoy watching these athletes amazing feats of strength, speed and agility, I cannot help but notice some conflicts that tear at my conscience during these Olympic Games. Why do we allow this wonderful event to take place in a country that ignores human rights for a significant part of their population? While the USA's political boycott of these games is an important statement, how can we send a stronger message that might actually bring about real changes? While the countries of the world historically have tried to set politics aside in support of the Olympic Games, at what point must we put politics and human rights first? Should we have supported holding the games in Nazi Germany? Did the world joining for the Olympic Games in some ways help Germany then, or support China today? It is an ongoing issue with which I struggle.

Despite this internal conflict, I have to admit I take pride whenever a US athlete or an Israeli athlete competes. I get excited when I see a Jewish skater, hockey player, skier, or snowboarder participating. Being able to set aside differences and compete in a sporting event is an important lesson. These young athletes (many are teenagers) share the experience of healthy competition with one another. Through their interactions, even limited because of the ongoing threat of Covid-19, they learn and demonstrate how we should focus on our commonalities, not our differences. They celebrate each other's victories and respect the talents of their competitors. These athletes are truly supportive of one another.

Maybe that is why I feel a little saddened when the Olympic flame stops burning at the end of the games. Our athletes head home. Our positive interactions with one another cease. If only our international relations could be modeled after our athletic competitions. With respect and appreciation, we recognize the best found in one another. We take time to celebrate each other's successes and comfort and assist those who struggle with their losses. Our world would certainly be a better place. If only.





From our President Dan Nussbaum, President Board of Trustees

What happens when you have a belief about something and then somebody

provides incontrovertible proof that you're wrong? I'll give an example.

I've always *known* that the golden calf story precedes the instructions to build a tabernacle. I knew it, and, better, it made sense that that is the right order. You see, our trust in an invisible, incorporeal God was tested at Sinai, where we had stopped to receive the Torah, but we got antsy while Moses was away, and we assuaged our angst with something tangible, namely the golden calf. God, via this episode, learns something about human behavior, namely that we need some tangible evidence of the divine. So, God says "ok, you want tangible, I'll give you tangible, but here are the exact (and exacting) instructions (for the Tabernacle)." That sequence and my reasons for it are satisfying, and that's what I always thought. Until a few weeks ago, when Beryl Levinger pointed out to me that the golden calf is in Exodus 32 (not 23!), while the Tabernacle is in Exodus 25. Well, facts are facts..... and it remains an open question why I didn't discover this open fact on my own over the previous decades. In any case, apparently I need a new justification, one that says, "of course the instructions for building the Tabernacle precede the golden calf episode." I am working on it. All help is appreciated.

Many rabbis in our tradition have pseudonyms. For example, some are known by the name of a famous book they wrote, while others have an acronym composed of their name and a parent's name. Rabbi Yisrael Meir ha-Kohen Kagan (1833-1933, all in Belarus) is known popularly as the *Chofetz Chaim* ("As an Object of Life"), after his book of the same title. The book deals mainly with the importance of avoiding *lashon hara* (roughly, gossip). Rabbi Shlomo Yitzchaki, known by the acronym Rashi (his father was Yitzhak,

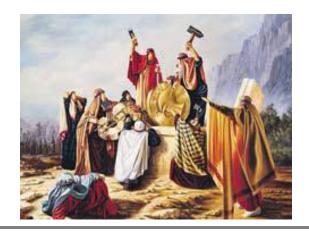
so he is Rabbi Shlomo Yitzhaki), lived 1040-1105, mainly in France, and is the author of a comprehensive commentary on the Talmud and commentary on the Bible.

Or, one final example, Moses ben Nachman, (1194-1270, born in Spain; died in Israel) commonly known by the acronym Ramban (Rabbi Moses ben Nachman) was a leading medieval Jewish scholar. He was forced into a theological debate by King James of Aragon, which you can watch in the movie The Disputation.

These rabbis lived in times when traditional perspectives were under assault (new theologies and new science, for example), and they faced the choice of "holding to the old" or "going with the new." In every case, they acknowledged the old-versus-new tensions, sought advice from others—often getting conflicting advice—and evolved their positions. Sometimes they held with the old; other times they went with the new; and still other times, they did not resolve the tensions, leaving the achievement of clarity for further and future consideration. It is this deliberate, thoughtful approach that I admire.

For me, in the golden calf/Tabernacle case, the resolution was easy, and my thanks to Beryl for making it so. In other cases, for me—and perhaps for you—resolution and clarity are harder, but at least our tradition provides us a pathway forward, and for this I am profoundly grateful.

*Dan*Dan Nussbaum
(C) (831) 324-3228





From Our
Cantorial Soloist
and Director of
Education
Suzanne Guinane



Our joy continues as we welcome in *Adar* II at sundown on Thursday, March 3rd, 30 *Adar* I 5782. As it's a leap year on our Jewish calendar, we celebrate *Purim* during *Adar* II which begins at sundown on Wednesday, March 16th, 13 *Adar* II 5782.

Our fifth and sixth graders offered a lot of wisdom and insight as we discussed *Megillat Esther*. Here are their thoughts as we reviewed and discussed the story and the character's attributes:

Esther was brave and stood up for her people.

Vashti respected herself, had boundaries and was a feminist.

Mordechai was kind, wise, wanted the best for the Jewish people and gave hope and inspiration.

King Ahashuerus was oblivious.

Haman (BOO!) was evil, greedy and a bully.

Some related to Esther and Vashti with the majority identifying with Mordechai. Each shared examples of things they do in their daily life they felt they had in common with Esther, Vashti and Mordechai. While it may surprise some, none of them identified with King Ahashuerus or Haman (BOO!). I'm sure no will be surprised that each student also shared they had been bullied, their experience, how they felt, who they went to for support and how the situation was remediated for the good of all. Once again, I was struck by their

wisdom, resilience and humbled by the trust they have built within their pod and shared with me. #walkingsifreitorah

So, which character attributes do you identify with and why? What do you do in your daily life to support your choice? What character attributes do people see as they watch you walk your daily life? Are you a #walkingtorah?

Our school will celebrate *Purim* on Sunday, March 20th, with our own version of The Amazing Race, without the race! We'll begin with *havdallah*/HTM (Hebrew Through Movement) and move into our class pods to select team names before our festivities begin.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Continued from page 1

The College Fund was born through the efforts of Judy Masliyah z"I 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 over 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 CBI College Scholarship 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 27, 2022, 4:00 p.m. Please email your application to Debbie Winick at winick.debbie@gmail.com



Lunch with the Rabbi

Please join Rabbi Greenbaum this month on **Wednesday, March 9 at noon** at an outdoor table on the patio of Baja Cantina, located about a mile east of CBI. If it rains we will postpone the lunch. This month the Rabbi will lead a

discussion on "Defining Judaism." Was Whoopi Goldberg wrong questioning if we are a race? Is Judaism more than just a religion? How does the land of Israel connect to Judaism? Where does culture fit into this issue? 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 Purim Party

Let's meet on Purim Day, **Thursday March 17**. Purim is a celebration of victory in the face of antisemitism. During this entire Hebrew month of Adar we are told to rejoice. Following that theme, let's plan on meeting in our CBI social Hall at **3:30**. We will provide some tasty hors d'oeuvres and a nice bottle of red wine and a nice bottle of white wine. If you want, bring your favorite bottle of wine to share. Costumes not required, but encouraged, and no one will be turned away! To RSVP for this Purim celebration, call the CBI office at 624-2015. Remember, **this event is free**. Please let us know if you need a ride to this event. Masks are now only required for those who are not fully vaccinated.

HÄPPY ÄNNIVERSÄRY

David Awerbuck & Astrid Holberg 5
Peter & Deborah Stern 6
Lewis & Sandra Leader 8
Robert Moskowitz & Jeannette Stern 13
David & Barbara Ehrenpreis 25



CBI Book Club

Dear Jewish Book Clubbers,

IMPORTANT: You must be fully vaccinated and boostered against Covid-19 in order to attend Book Club. Also, you cannot come to Book Club:

- -- if you are not feeling well;
- -- if you learn, during the five-day period leading up to the Book Club meeting, that you have been exposed to someone with Covid-19;
- -- if you have been involved in activities with a higher risk of Covid exposure, such as indoor restaurant dining or indoor groups of ten people or more, such as gyms.

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 three dates and book selections.

March 8, 1:30 PM, home of Suellen Rubin. Book—Our Country Friends by Gary Shteyngart. This book is not yet in paperback; you can try to get it from a library or purchase a Kindle version or a hardcover copy at a bookstore.

April 12, 1:30 PM, home of Suellen Rubin. Book—The Netanyahus: An Account of a Minor and Ultimately Even Negligible Episode in the History of a Very Famous Family by Joshua Cohen. "Absorbing, delightful, hilarious, breathtaking" (New York Times). New York Times Notable Book, Jewish Book Award winner

May 10, 1:30 PM, host home TBA. Book—How Sweet It Is by Thane Rosenbaum.

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.

CARMEL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL	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 About Us pages	*	*	*			
Recognition on Lobby Poster and in the CBI <i>Shofar</i>	*	*	*	*	*	
Recognition on Website Sponsor page	*	*	*	*	*	*
Business Card-size ad in the CBI <i>Shofar</i> for one year	*					
Business Card-size ad in the CBI <i>Shofar</i> for 4 months		*				

To become a sponsor, visit carmeliff.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.



Congregation Beth Israel Adar I ~ Adar II 5782 March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday	Pionacy	1	2	3	4	5
			4:00 PM Hebrew Liturgy Class		6:00 PM Family Shabbat Services with Birthday Blessings. At CBI & on	10:30 Shabbat Torah Study In person & on
6 9:00 AM Religious School 5:00 PM I-Help	7	8	12:00 Lunch with the Rabbi @Baja Cantina 4:00 PM Hebrew Liturgy Class 7:00 PM JFF	10	11 Traditions 7:30 PM Erev	10:30 Shabbat Torah Study In person & on
Men			Committee meets via zoom		Shabbat Services. At CBI & on Coom	CJFF Opening Night
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:00 AM Religious School 1:00 PM Aleynu		7:00 PM CBI Executive Committee Meets	4:00 PM Hebrew Liturgy Class	3:30 PM Best Years Purim Celebration Happy Purim	7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services with Beryl Levinger At CBI & on	10:30 Shabbat Torah Study In person & on
9:00 AM Religious School & Purim Celebration – at CBI backyard	21	7:00 PM CBI Board of Trustees Meets	10:00 AM Worship Committee Meets 4:00 PM Hebrew Liturgy Class	CJFF Closing Night	7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services with Rabbi Jeff with Anniversary Blessings at CBI & on	10:30 Shabbat Torah Study In Person & on
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
9:00 AM Religious School 1:00 PM Aleynu			4:00 PM Hebrew Liturgy Class		6:00 PM Family Shabbat Services with Birthday Blessings. At CBI & on compared to the compared	10:30 Shabbat Torah Study In Person & on



Laura Arnow	1
Robert Feller	1
Corrina Joan Rucka	1
Eiram Kelton	2
Jacob Carlyle	4
Richard Gerber	4
Linda Sweet	4
Dan Weiner	4
Ethan Schmidt	5
Eby Wold	5
Toni Lakind	7
Grant Rosenberg	8
Eugene Ganeles	9
Nancy Rund	9
Channaorah Meir	10
Peter Singer	10
Dennis Bates	11
Tobi Marcus	11
Martin Wiskoff	12
Gadi Maier	14
Ruby Browning	16
Barbara Ehrenpreis	17
Sheree Goldman	17
Cara Lieb	17
Ellen Weiner	17
Diana Rosenthal	18
Debora Waxer	18
Jonny Goldberg	21
Paul Richmond	22
Wendy Rosenthal	22
Ronald Kohen	23
Karen Paull	24
David Epel	26
Donna Shore	26
Michael Dicus	27
Aline Harris	27
Elaine Gallup Conner	28
Ann Packer	28

TODAH RABBAH!

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

UJC Donations

Ellyn Gelson

Eitan Biblarz Campership Fund

Stanley Semmel: in memory of June Horowitz

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Deanna Adolph: For my loving husband Al Adolph Leonard & Sheri Chodosh: in memory of Bari Tolliver

Arlene Lee: honor of Diana Rosenthal

Selina Glater & Cheryl Crose: in honor of Rabbi Greenbaum

Diana Greenbaum: in honor of Susan Platt's birthday

Barry R. Harrow Rosemary Lande

Steven Retsky: in loving memory of Herbert Retsky

Carmel Jewish Film Festival Sponsorships

Beth Cort

David & Barbara Ehrenpreis

Ellyn Gelson

Rabbi Bruce & Susan Greenbaum

Richard & Margaret Harrit

Thomas & Ellen G. Krause

Marsha Kelley Rory & Toni Lakind Rosemary Lande

Dan & Bev Nussbaum

Bill Pardue & Barbara Mitchell **Pritzer Family Foundation**

Charlotte Salomon & Scott Fetherston

Joanne Storkan

Lester & Debbie Tockerman in honor of Susan Greenbaum

& Marsha Kelly

Jewish Food Festival Sponsorships

Rosemary Lande

General Donations

Leonard & Chodosh: in memory of Norman Chodeshe Ellyn Gelson: in honor of February Anniversaries & **Birthdays**

Melvin & Susan Gorelick: in memory of George Ugoretz Jill, Rachael & Michaela Katz: In memory of Veta Winick

Robert Fields

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

Rosemary Lande

Herbert Stern: In memory of Rita Berro, Leon Berro, & Esther Stern

Michael & Debora Waxer: in memory of Roy and Judi Kaufman



Resilience

As the weeks go by, and March arrives, marking the beginning of the third year of the pandemic, I think about what "keeps us going". Going Forward. Going Strong. Going with Purpose.

Resilience and Perseverance have always served as guideposts for me, spiritually and physically. When I'm emotionally down or incapacitated, as I was recently with a fractured foot that had me in a wheelchair, walker, and boot for 3 months and living alone, I think about how to persevere, the blessings of friends and community who helped me, how to use my resources to stay the course, to recover from illness, crisis, and adversity. To be resilient.

That's how the I-HELP Men and Women whom we serve, are. When we host our I-HELP guests, I'm always overcome with amazement about the "upbeat", thankful spirits they demonstrate. About their affection for our Social Action Team and conversely, how we've gotten to know them, to talk "everyday affairs", and to serve them. They Persevere. They demonstrate Resilience to Adversity. They represent Hope.

I-HELP

On Monday, January 31st, CBI hosted 5 women. The Lambourne Institute for Life Mastery provided a Chinese dinner, with 3 of their Board members helping to welcome and serve the women.

We hosted 15 men on Sunday, February 6, with a dinner of turkey and scalloped potatoes, and homemade salad and roasted vegetables prepared by Nancy and Barry Rund. Beth Cort helped me make sandwiches and bag these with snacks, drinks, trail mix and cookies at my home. The 5th & 6th grade families provided breakfast items, which Lorraine and Hugo Gerstl and Judy Levin then prepared and bagged them in our kitchen. Teamwork! Thank you Social Action!

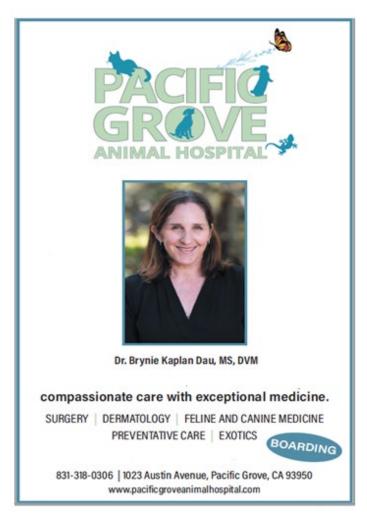
The following Sunday, Charlene and Matthew Schuss provided a tailgate Super Bowl party for the men who were housed at another Church. And we provided a safe sleeping place for 5 women on Wednesday, February 9th, with dinner provided by another congregation and delivered to CBI. Thanks to Rabbi and Barry Rund for helping to set up our space and to welcome the women.

Jewish Council for Public Affairs
https://www.jewishpublicaffairs.org/
Mark Your Calendars for this Virtual Conference, April 11-

13th, just before Passover! Some of the sessions align with our discussions at the "White Supremacy Here & Abroad" event that we recently hosted. You can participate via interactive sessions, focusing on Justice and Equity • Democracy and Voting Rights • Antisemitism and Hate • Racial Justice • Civil Discourse • Criminal Justice Reform • Israel and World Affairs • Civic Engagement

Arlene Krebs, Social Action Trustee <arlenekrebs123@gmail.com>





Torah Connections:



Vol. 166 March 2022, 5782Ry Michael L. Wayer

By Michael L. Waxer

Bricks and Stones

When reading Torah we all want the literal meaning to make sense to us, and often we can explore the original Hebrew words and find it understandable. Then we want to explore how that literal understanding can be applied, asking ourselves how this information is relevant to us today, in our time. This is where many people disconnect and just say it is not relevant, and 'that was then and this is now' and there isn't anything that helps us today.

One of the secrets to be successful in applying the Torah to have meaning today is to employ the **PaRDeS** method of studying Torah, given to us by our Sages. This word, meaning 'orchard', is an acronym for 4 different levels of reading and understanding. But part of the magic of using this method is that **having these higher levels of interpretation can also help to understand the literal (***Pshat***), the P of PaRDeS.**

A great example of this is thinking about **bricks and stones**. **Bricks**, as you can imagine, are intended to be the same and uniform, and are manufactured by people **to be identical**. **Stones**, on the other hand, are unique. They are here on, or just below, the surface of the earth, and are not manufactured. **Each stone** is **custom**.

Hopefully you have all sensed the metaphor, that **bricks** represent what humans and governments do, seeing people as essentially identical. Each person is just a number, and they are replaceable. Contrast this with **stones**, that are God created, and each one is unique... just like how Judaism views people, that each person is akin to a universe; unique, valuable, and custom made.

Recalling some well-known Torah stories, the Israelites were forced to build the pyramids with **bricks**. Also, the tower of Babel was constructed with **bricks**. The **Drosh**, the D of PaRDeS, comments that the goal of building this tower to reach the heavens became more important than the laborers who were building it, and many dying in the process. The '**bricks**' represent this low value of humanity; the **bricks** were identical and replaceable, as were people.

Stones, on the other hand, have a lot of connection to HaShem. Jacob, when he had his dream with angels ascending and descending the ladder, placed **stones** in that place. In fact, many of the altars that were built by the patriarchs were marked by, you guessed it, **stones**. The breastplate that the Kohen Gadol wore included a specific **stone** to represent each tribe.

"And the <u>stones</u> shall be according to the names of the children of Israel, twelve according to their names, engraved like a signet, each one according to its name, they shall be for the twelve tribes." (Exodus [Shemot] 28:21, emphasis added)

Understanding this metaphor, one can now see the clues: When 'bricks' are mentioned in Torah, it will generally be associated with some type of human failing, as evidenced by the Tower of Babel, and the enslavement by the Egyptians. In contrast, when 'stones' are discussed, this will generally be associated with some

type of elevation, perhaps a way to draw closer to God or to facilitate spiritual growth.

With these clues it is easier to understand the literal meanings, because we are understanding a context with which the Torah was written, and that it was written to be meaningful in each generation. Let's look at the Tower of Babel passage now, in its literal translation, and then we will add this new insight to help us understand the plain, literal meaning,

"And it was that the whole earth was of one language and of purposes that were in common.... And they said one to another, 'Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and the bitumen served them as mortar." (Genesis [Beresheet] 11:1-3, partial, emphasis added)

"And HaShem came down to see the city and the tower...And HaShem said, 'Indeed, they are one people with one language for all, and this is what they begin to do..."

(Genesis [Beresheet] 11:5-6, partial, emphasis added)

Now it is easier to see that the people uniting, and using brick instead of stone, was the equivalent of devaluing human life. The human ego was trying to surpass the God-given spiritual nature of man

HaShem saw that the more people work together, the greater the tendency for the ego to rule._Wow! That is a powerful message, and perhaps the opposite of modern secular teachings.

For example, aren't we taught in our universities that entities like the United Nations are a force for good in this world? This Torah teaching tells us that it is the <u>opposite</u>, and that it is much more likely that the UN would be a force for evil. Perhaps this explains how and why the UN could target tiny Israel as having more UN condemnations than all other countries combined.

Are we not seeing governments, all over the world, making rules that treat people increasingly like 'bricks'? Governments issuing rules which are increasingly heavy handed? Governments which expect and demand praise even though so many indicators in society are failing, to include crime, caring for one another, and things so basic as valuing each human life.

HaShem designed us each unique, with custom attributes, metaphorically like stones. Governments don't want to build with stones, as they require more time and expertise, since each one is unique. Governments want to make bricks, things that are identical, and they want to do the same with their citizens. The nature of government is opposite of HaShem's design.

By understanding the metaphors in Torah, it enables one to make more sense of the literal stories. More importantly, through this increased understanding, it becomes easier to apply this story to our lives today. **The Torah is designed as a timeless and holy scripture**. As such it should speak to each and every generation. Now we know that **we were not made to be 'bricks'**.

This Torah Connection 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.

DANIEL S. ROBBINS, Ph.D. CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

26384 CARMEL RANCHO LANE, SUITE 203E CARMEL, CALIFORNIA 93923

(831) 626-6600

CAL. LIC. PSY6557



Bobbie Ehrenpreis Carmel Realty Company (831) 624-1861 (831) 915-8010

bobbie@carmel-realty.com

GANELES & ASSOCIATES



Eugene Ganeles, CPA CERTIFIED QUICKBOOKS PRO ADVISOR

- Estate & Trust Accounting Pick-Up & Delivery Availab

NEW CLIENTS WELCOME • FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION

831.375.1910 t 831.375.1925 f

2600 Garden Road, Suite 301, Monterey CA 939340



ANGELICA BLATT

Carmel Rancho 126 Clock Tower Pl., Ste. 100 Carmel, CA 93923 831-206-8070 angelicablatt@gmail.com CalRE #01248430

C COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

Monica Browning, MA

REALTOR® I DRE#02014580 831.601.9038 monicabrowninghome@gmail.com Over The Moon Realty Hometown Service. Worldwide Reach.









Natalie Jaffe

Medicare Consulting

Cell: 831-869-1066 Fax: 831-384 - 5326 License: OB25526

Email: nataliejaffe541@gmail.com



Thinking about honoring a loved one or a special occasion?

Consider a plaque at CBI

A leaf on the Tree of Life \$180

A Yahrzeit Plaque in our sanctuary





Congregation Beth Israel 5716 Carmel Valley Road Carmel, CA 93923 (831) 624-2015

E-mail: shalomcbi@aol.com Website: www.carmelbethisrael.org

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.

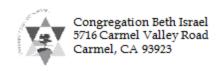
Senior Staff

Bruce Greenbaum - Rabbi, D.D.
Suzanne Guinane – Cantorial Soloist &
Director of Education
Julie Chase- Executive Director
Abby King- Administrative Assistant/Facility Use Coordinator
Ruby Cohan-Bookkeeper

Board of Trustees 2021-2022

Dan Nussbaum, President
Beryl Levinger, Vice President
Malina Breaux, Treasurer
Marshal Blatt, Secretary
Megan Felthoven, Member Services
Arlene Krebs, Social Action
Ilana Entin, Youth Activities
Jillian Heisman, Marketing & Communication
Steven Goldberg, Fundraising
Bobbie Ehrenpreis, Adult Education
Lois Epel. At Large
Clare Blatt, Youth Trustee

Bee Epstein-Shepherd, Honorary Life Trustee Herb Stern, Honorary Life Trustee



Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Permit #304 Carmel, CA



Parshiot

March 5, Pekude T: Exodus 38:21-40:38 H: I Kings 7:51-8:21

March 12, Vayikra T: Leviticus 1:1-5:26 H: Isaiah 43:21-44:23

March 19, Tzav

T: Leviticus 6:1-8:36 H: Jeremiah 7:21-8:3, 9:22-23

March 26, Shemini

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