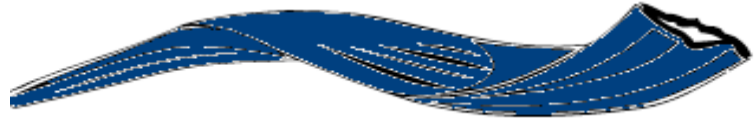


SHOFAR



Monthly Newsletter of the Monterey Peninsula Jewish Community

www.carmelbethisrael.org



Hesed Academy

Anyone who attended the first day of Hesed Academy, our newly renamed religious school, experienced the excitement and energy at CBI. Visiting guest

artist Nancy Katz helped students, teachers and parents create a beautiful pomegranate mosaic that is now adorning our entranceway. Classrooms were overflowing with students as our teaching staff introduced this year's curriculum. Now also serving as our Director of Education, Rabbi Greenbaum led the parent meeting in the social hall while our assistant director of Education Cantor Fineman led our youngest classes in Tefillah in the sanctuary. The morning ended with the Aleynu students enjoying a pizza lunch before their study session with Cantor Alisa. It was a wonderful first day for all those who participated.

With just one important adjustment (all 8th graders are now enrolled in Aleynu and a special final B'nai Mitzvah preparation program) the second week was equally successful. Gifted storyteller Susan Newton served as our specialist sharing delightful stories with our students. Cantor Alisa is bringing joy to all our Tefillah time together sharing both her beautiful music and spiritual understanding to each session in the sanctuary.

This month during Hesed Academy mornings we will build and decorate our community Sukkah on October 9, celebrate Simhat Torah and consecrate our newest students on October 16, and enjoy cooking with Larry Solow on October 23. Storyteller Susan Newton will share more stories on October 30.

Continued on page 7



Havdalah on the Beach October 8

Hope you are looking forward to another Havdalah on Carmel Beach. Enjoy a relaxing evening visiting with friends and relatives around our CBI propane fire pit. We will sing, cook s'mores and enjoy the sunset together. Join Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum and Cantor Alisa Fineman for our monthly Havdalah on the Beach **Saturday night, October 8** below 13th and Scenic Drive. While we will formally begin at **6:00 p.m.**, you can come earlier and enjoy a picnic dinner before our Havdalah service. Rabbi Greenbaum will bring all the fixings for s'mores. You bring friends, warm clothes, something to sit on, family pets, and musical instruments. This is a great event for young and old alike.

**Please Note Our
New CBI Office Hours**
Tuesday – Friday
9 AM – 5 PM
and by appointment



From the Rabbi's Desk...

Minutes ago, I returned a call from a CBI member who was concerned that they could not reach me in my office. They had called me twice and it took me a couple of hours before I returned their call. I was able to answer their question about Hesed Academy. They wanted to know why I was not in the office available when they initially called.

I know some rabbis spend almost all their working hours in their offices. While I spend the majority of my working hours at my desk doing things like writing this article, there are many hours every week when I am not near my phone. Thursday afternoons I spend in Marina at Epiphany Lutheran & Episcopal Church serving meals at our JCM United soup kitchen, Abraham's Tent. Including driving to Marina, helping package the meals and handing them out to those who are food insufficient, I am away for approximately 3 hours. Every Friday morning, I spend at least two hours serving as a chaplain at CHOMP visiting patients who need time with a member of the clergy. Of course, I am always on call to our members as well whenever they might be in the hospital. Tuesday and Fridays right after lunch I play in a regular tennis match, making sure that I am caring for me physical wellbeing. Most of the time my cell phone is with me in case of emergencies. I regularly check my messages and emails and try and respond in a timely fashion. If I am ever late getting back to you, please forgive me.

Time is one of those precious commodities with which many of us struggle. During the past two months there simply have not been enough hours in the day to complete all the tasks. Planning for the High Holy Days, writing sermons, opening Hesed Academy which included hiring teachers and revamping the school curriculum, the list of time-consuming activities goes on and on. More than once, when I did not have an evening committee meeting, I "snuck" into my office after dinner to work on various programs.

One friend suggested I suspend my volunteer work with Abraham's Tent. I had to explain that

serving these meals recharged my spiritual center. "Take a few weeks off from tennis," was then suggested. But my body needs to get some exercise. And smacking the tennis ball is a good release when I began to feel tension from all the demands. I try to practice what I preach! Taking care of yourself both physically and spiritually is important. If I don't care for myself, I could not do the rest of my work.

I found some of the pressures effecting my sleep. I struggled at night to shut down and woke up in the middle of the night mentally listing all the things that needed to be done. As I write this, still I am searching for a Shofar blower. Who might open and close the Ark doors for us Yom Kippur afternoon? How should I tweak my High Holy Day sermons to really share the message I want you to hear (and keep them under 12 minutes!).

So I remind myself periodically when I begin to feel overwhelmed to take some deep breaths, and reflect for a few minutes on all the blessings in my life. Family, friends, my health, my home, my dog Mazik, my job, my congregation... all lift my spirits. Another deep breath, and I turn to the next task. Complete this message and send my bulletin articles to Julie who edits our Shofar. See you at CBI or on the tennis courts or around our beautiful peninsula. May each of us make time to enjoy a New Year of health and wholeness and peace. Amen.





From Cantor Alisa

The Month of Elul: From Grief and Loss to Love and Forgiveness

Dear CBI Community,

There are so many reasons why I love being back at CBI. Among them is seeing your warm and familiar faces, and so many new faces as

well-- on Shabbat, at Havdalah on the beach, and on our first day of school! I feel pride in seeing our congregation welcoming new members, how our children are blossoming and maturing with such goodness and our many new students and families enriching and strengthening our community.

Our first day of Hesed Academy was filled with excitement and joy. We welcome back our teachers, as well as many new teachers, and a strong team of madrichim (teacher assistants) among our post B'nai Mitzvah teens. Though our staff and parents are helping us all to maintain safe Covid practices, the yearning to reconnect and be together is palpable. Our "golden pomegranate" community mosaic project added magic to the air, inspiring creativity and bonding among our younger kids in the morning and with our fine group of Aleynu teens in the afternoon. Pomegranates are symbols of creativity, the Garden of Eden, Torah, and the presence of the divine as manifested through our mitzvot, not to mention beauty and sweetness. Everyone from our office staff to our students, madrichim, teachers, parents, and CBI members, stopping by to join the fun, contributed to this work of art, which is presently hanging in our entryway, an example of *hiddur mitzvah*- *beautifying our mitzvot and sacred spaces*.

We are receiving positive feedback about how meaningful and warm our outdoor services have been, exploring new ways to engage in prayer and benefit from the gift of Shabbat, resting in the beauty and wonder of creation. The yearning to be together is shared by many and our gatherings have been a source of joy, connection, and comfort. We hope they will continue to be as we move inside with the changing season.

At our last outdoor Erev Shabbat service on September 9th, we shared the news about a new fund called "**The Rachael Sammet Cantor's Music Fund**" for all things related to music at CBI including services and music programs. Rachael Sammet, an inspiration and light to all who knew her, grew up in our congregation, loved music, and sang like an angel, gracing our bima many times to share her musical gifts and open our hearts. This fund is dedicated to the spirit of our beloved Rachael whose love, light and song will shine and strengthen us for all time.

With Thanks and New Year Blessings,
Cantor Alisa



Help Keep CBI Safe

We are looking for new members of the Congregation Beth Israel Security Committee.

We are expecting the duties to be light, and the participation to be meaningful.

For more information, please contact Marshal at marshal.blatt@chomp.org.

Marshal :)



From Our President, Malina Breau

One month into my term and we have had the Jewish Food Festival, Religious School starting, High Holidays, and a new employee at CBI.

I want to express my gratitude to all the fantastic, enthusiastic Food Festival volunteers. It was another successful fundraiser and community builder. Even though we didn't have 3000 people from the community in our backyard, my opinion is that we did put a good face to our Jewish Community. Thank you all for making that possible.

We have created a new part time position at CBI, **Director of Member Development and Engagement**. As you know, one of my goals for my term is to increase membership and member participation. This is the first step in planning for success.

We are very excited that Charlotte Salomon has agreed to take this position, beginning in mid-October. Some of her responsibilities include: Develop & implement a recruitment and retention plan, create & enhance current programs, generate committee involvement, improve communication with members and prospective members.

This is a big step for CBI. We have never had any staff in this position in the past. Charlotte may be contacting you for your input. I would appreciate you taking the time to communicate with her about what you want from CBI and how you can be more involved. Your opinion counts. And for Charlotte to be successful in her position she needs to hear from you. Together we can fulfill CBI's *mission to be a welcoming and inclusive center for Jewish life in the Monterey Peninsula*.



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

- In your internet browser enter [amazonsmile.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile)
- Select CBI as your selected recipient
- Every purchase you make sends dollars to CBI



Congregation Beth Israel

HIGH HOLY DAYS SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum & Cantor Alisa Fineman

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, October 2

4:00 p.m. Memorial Service at
Mission Memorial Park,
1915 Ord Grove Avenue, Seaside

YOM KIPPUR

Tuesday, October 4th

7:00 p.m. Kol Nidre Service

Wednesday, October 5th

10:00 a.m. Morning Service

12:30 p.m. Family/Children's Service
(outdoors only)

1:30 p.m. Holy Day Discussions

Led by Beryl Levinger and David Sabih

3:00 p.m. Afternoon Service with Rabbi Jeff
Schulman

*4:45 p.m. Yizkor Service

*5:30 p.m. Closing Neilah Service

*6:30 p.m. Break-the-Fast

CBI will provide challah, salads, and a variety
of beverages

***Times are approximate on Yom Kippur
afternoon**

SUKKAH BUILDING

Sunday, October 9th

During Religious School Morning

SIMCHAT TORAH SERVICE

Sunday, October 16th

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



Sukkah Building

On Sunday, **October 9** we will be building and decorating our community Sukkah all morning long. **At least 3-4 parents will be needed from 9:30-10:00** (right

after drop off) to help put the Sukkah structure together. During Hesed Academy hours each class will have time to work on decorations for the Sukkah. By the end of the morning, our Sukkah will be ready for the holiday of Sukkot that begins that evening! All our members are encouraged to bring items to place within our Sukkah. Gourds, pumpkins, and art decorations will all be a welcome addition to our Sukkah. Also we are all encouraged to bring non-perishable items for our food bins that supports the Monterey County Food Bank. Hag Sameach!



Lunch with Our Clergy

Notice the name change! Cantor Alisa Fineman and Rabbi Greenbaum will take turns leading this monthly program. This month Cantor Alisa will lead the discussion on **Wednesday, October 12 at noon**

at an outdoor table on the patio of Baja Cantina, located about a mile east of CBI. Cantor Alisa will share teachings about the holiday of Sukkot and explore the writings from Ecclesiastes, a book of wisdom literature found in our TaNKH, traditionally read during Sukkot.

Call (624-2015) or email (shalomCBI@aol.com) the CBI office to RSVP. We will order off their regular menu so expect lunch to cost approximately \$15-\$20.



Simchat Torah

Few services are as exhilarating or uplifting as our Simchat Torah celebration. Join us in person or on Zoom Sunday morning, **October 16th at 11:00AM** (note the special

time) as we celebrate completing our Torah reading cycle and the start of a new school year. All our religious school students, their families, and all our members are encouraged to join us in the sanctuary for this uplifting service.

As we prepare for this service we want you all to participate. Once again we plan to completely unroll

the entire Torah scroll. With clean hands we will all carefully hold the scroll in a large circle surrounding the sanctuary pews.

Near the end of the service we will chant the very end of Deuteronomy followed by the beginning of Genesis. We will celebrate together with dancing and singing. At this service we will also welcome our newest members to Hesed Academy as they begin their process of study. Chag Sameach! Happy Holiday.



Adult Biblical Hebrew Class

Did you participate in our Liturgical Hebrew class last year and want to keep learning? Would you like to learn how to read the book of Genesis in Hebrew? Are you curious about what each word in the text really means? At our first session we will start with chapter 1 verse 1 of the Bible. Some weeks we might only read one verse, but slowly, we will begin reading Torah starting with its first word! Classes begin **Wednesday, October 19 at 4:00 PM**. It would be helpful if you own your own copy of the Torah in Hebrew. Call Rabbi Greenbaum to register for the class and if you have questions about participating. It is never too late to start learning!



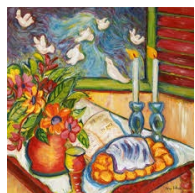
BEST YEARS Elkhorn Slough Safari

Join us for a fun 90-minute Safari on a pontoon boat in the Elkhorn Slough. On **Wednesday, October 26** our adventure starts at the A Dock in Moss Landing at 1:00. Those who want can join us as we carpool from our parking lot leaving CBI sharply at noon. You can also meet us there at 7981 Moss Landing Road. All those joining us must register for the event no later than Friday, October 23. It costs only \$5 to reserve a spot for this floating safari. Our CBI Senior Endowment Fund will cover all other costs for this trip (about \$40 per participant). Make sure to eat lunch before this event or bring a sack lunch. The Rabbi will also provide a healthy snack when we arrive to Moss Landing. Please call or email (shalomcbi@aol.com) the CBI office at 624-2015 to sign up for this wonderful adventure. Please let us know if you need a ride for this event.



Guest Speaker Maggie Anton October 23

Join us at **7:00 PM on Sunday evening, October 23** as we welcome back to Congregation Beth Israel author Maggie Anton. Her latest book "The Choice: A Novel of Love, Faith, and the Talmud" has been described as a powerful love story with a purpose; to challenge Jewish customs about women, marriage, and equality. Maggie Anton, the award-winning author of "Rashi's Daughters" has written a transformative novel that takes characters inspired by Chaim Potok and ages them into young adults in Brooklyn in the 1950s. Maggie will share how she approached her research for "The Choice" and what inspired her to create this novel. She will have books available for purchase at CBI and will answer our questions before ending the evening signing copies of her book. While this event is available on zoom, she hopes you will consider joining her in person in our social hall.



Join Us For Community Shabbat Dinner!

We are so excited to resume our monthly tradition of Shabbat dinners, prepared by Malina Breaux and her entourage of assistants. Savor a sense of community and food worthy of celebration at **6:15 PM on Friday, October 28**.

Join us as we offer blessings for the bread and wine and sing traditional music to begin our gatherings. **For now, dinner will be limited to 40 guests, all fully vaccinated.** Evening services follow if you wish to attend.

Call or email the CBI office for reservations to enjoy our lovely community Shabbat meals. \$18 for members



CBI Book Club

Dear Jewish Book Clubbers,

IMPORTANT: You must be fully vaccinated and boosted against Covid-19 in order to attend Book Club.

Here are our next two dates and book selections:

**October 11, 1:30 PM, home of Suellen Rubin. Book -
- THE PROMISE: A NOVEL by Damon Galgut**

**November 8, 1:30 PM, home to be determined.
Book -- A CALLING FOR CHARLIE BARNES by Joshua Ferris**

Our warmest thank-you to Suellen for offering to host Book Club once again.



Security Update

In the wake of an increase in anti-Jewish incidents and mass shootings we continue to ask, "How do we protect ourselves?". That critical question is addressed by the CBI Board

of Trustees through the *Safety and Security Committee*, chaired by Marshal Blatt. As you have seen over the last 2 ½ years we have improved the safety and security of our campus with new doors and locks, access control, tinted windows, improved cameras and outdoor lighting, and security personnel on site. The next step is to provide training for our congregation, teachers, and staff.

Please join us at CBI on Sunday, October 9 at 2:30 PM for a training designed specifically for our community. The program will include the latest thinking on situational awareness, active shooter/intruder "RUN, HIDE, FIGHT" training, and specific procedures for sheltering in place and a review of CBI exits.

Please call or email the office to reserve a spot.

Thank you to our Oneg Hosts for the Month of September

September 2nd – Woodruff Lyons Family in honor of Cantor Alisa's return to CBI.

September 9th – CBI Staff in honor of our Religious School Students, Families and Teachers

September 16th – Jeffrey Schulman & Susan Alnes in memory of Jeffrey's mother Pearl Schulman.

September 23rd - David & Lois Epel in honor of the September Birthdays of Granddaughter Abby Neuschatz, son-in-law Andy Neuschatz and grandson Danny Glazer.

Please consider hosting an Oneg. You may host in honor or memory of someone special to you or in gratitude or honor of a special occasion or life cycle event. It's easy, it's fun and very much appreciated.

Call the CBI office to schedule your Oneg at 831-624-2015. Or call Lois Epel at 831-277-0083

October dates available: 7th, 21st, and 28th

November dates available: November 18th, and November 25th

**Saturday November 5th
7:30 PM - At CBI**

"Blue Suede Jews: Jews who Rock"

Since rock music began, Jews have been crucial to its evolution as songwriters and performers. On Saturday, November 5 from 7:30pm-9pm, author and rock music historian Richie Unterberger presents the program "Blue Suede Jews: Jews Who Rock." He'll show and discuss vintage film clips of major Jewish rock performers of the 1960 and 1970s like Bob Dylan, Simon & Garfunkel, Carole King, Lesley Gore, Peter Green of the original Fleetwood Mac, Manfred Mann, Lou Reed, Leonard Cohen and others whom surprise you.



Richie Unterberger is the author of numerous rock history books, including volumes on the Beatles, the Who, the Velvet Underground, Bob Marley, and 1960 folk-rock. He teaches courses on rock and soul music history at several Bay Area colleges. His latest book, *San Francisco: Portrait of a City*, was published by Taschen earlier this year.



Hesed Academy

Continued from page 1

We are grateful for all our teachers.

K/1/2: Talia Elazar and Taylor Anderson

3 & 4: Debra Givner, Liz Heff and Faye Mueller

5th: Binie Holtzberg and Gabriel Lipow

6 & 7: David Awerbuck and Abra Teitler

Joined by almost a dozen Madrichim as well, our classrooms are filled with learning and growth for all who join us every Sunday morning. Call Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum if you have not yet enrolled your children or know someone who might want to join our dynamic school, Hesed Academy where we are developing kind souls.



Dr. Brynie Kaplan Dau, MS, DVM

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Meet Rabbi Jeff Schulman

Susan and I moved to Carmel in 1999 with our high school age daughter Norah. Our son Ross was already in college in the Northeast, so for him there was no move required. I grew up in NY, Susan in Minnesota, and the last place we thought we would live was in California. But we spent a school break vacation at Pajero Dunes in Watsonville, a beautiful place, and we were hooked. At first, we thought Carmel would be a vacation house, but within a few months we realized that we would move here as soon as we could sell our NY home. California here we come!

We moved in August and within a month it was High Holy Day time. We did a CBI walk through before we moved but didn't really know anyone. So, on Rosh Hashanah, we just walked in. And we looked for a seat, and we looked, and there was nothing. In one row near the front though we did see a couple of seats, and I asked the people already in that row whether we could sit there. They said we're holding these seats for our friends. And then they said, you are our friends. Those two people were Beryl and Sam Levinger, and what an incredible introduction to CBI and how welcome we have always felt here, in our congregational home.

My mother's parents, (my mother passed away when I was 10) were very important to me, and both were orthodox and deeply practicing Jews. I remember so clearly going to shul with them. I remember

everything, how they walked into the building, my grandmother going to one side and my grandfather to the other side, separated by a thick curtain. I remember the old prayer books with tear stains, the aromas of the shul, especially the smells of herring, schmaltz, and schnapps. I remember where my grandfather sat (right next to the rabbi by the eastern wall). But then my grandparents passed away and I went to college. It was the 1960s, and Judaism receded from my life. Skipping forward many years to our arrival at CBI, and suddenly my childhood memories came back, became important in the current context of my life, and I decided to go to rabbinical school. I was ordained 12 years ago in 2010 when I was 60 years old. At a gathering of family and friends at my ordination I said out loud that I wasn't sure how I got to this place in my life. I said to the group that this would have been the least probable direction I could take. My son Ross stood up then and said, dad, you are the only one who didn't see this coming. Everyone else could see the rabbi in you going all the way back to when you were a kid.

We moved to Carmel when our daughter Norah was in high school. At first it was an easy transition for her, but then things got rough. Not having friends was terrible. Norah felt ungrounded, a loose ship at sea. And then there was magic. She met Rabbi Bruce who took her under his wing. And then she blossomed. She signed up for NFTY (National Federation of Temple Youth) with Rabbi Bruce's sponsorship, care, and concern. Then she volunteered for local NFTY leadership, then for national NFTY leadership. She went to Camp Newman in Santa Rosa, where after a few years she met her husband to be. Norah is now 37, and till this day when she comes to visit Carmel, the person she wants to see first is Rabbi Bruce. Susan and Norah and I are eternally grateful.

Speaking of grateful, we're grateful for our friends at CBI, our local family, which we cherish. We can't imagine a more perfect place to call home. I mean both Carmel and CBI. We've all grown here, and we've all blossomed.

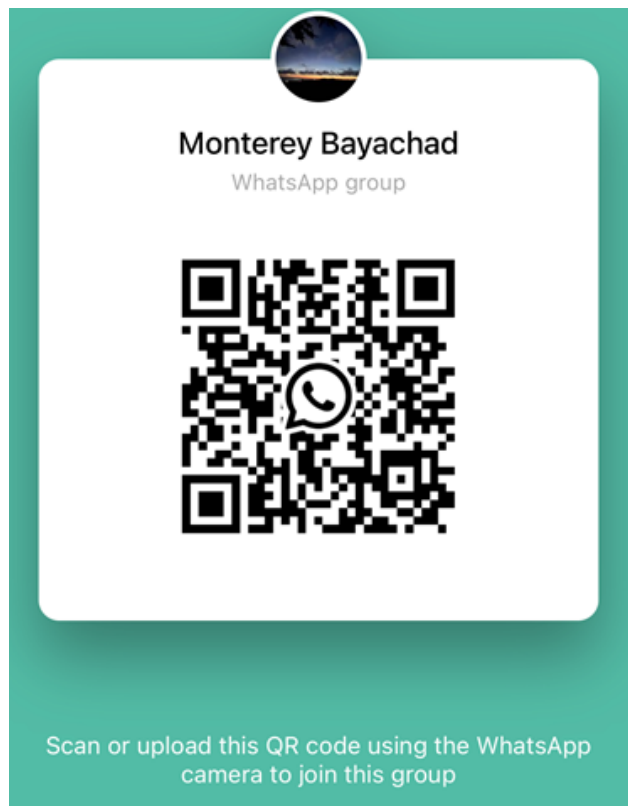
Thanks to Rabbi Bruce, Cantor Alisa, and the support staff for their continued efforts to make CBI the welcoming community that it is.



Actualizing Loving Kindness!

The Social Action I-HELP team and the Hesed Academy co-leaders Rabbi Bruce and Cantor Alisa, along with Sam Helfont, our CBI Youth Trustee have created a plan for the children in all grades for this upcoming school year concerning our hosting of I-HELP. Members of the Social Action Team are Lorraine & Hugo Gerstl, Charlene & Matthew Schuss, Nancy & Barry Rund, and myself, CBI's Social Action Trustee.

Our intentions are to help the children gain an understanding of homelessness and develop empathy and compassion towards unsheltered individuals and how they may learn and participate in our monthly hosting of the I-HELP men. Beginning in November 2022 through April 2023, the children will participate in age-appropriate learning materials concerning the causes and current local solutions to homelessness. The children will actualize their learning each month with age-appropriate activities.



Of course, parents and teachers are central to supporting this initiative. Each month, one grade class has the responsibility of supporting the men's program by providing a nutritious dinner and breakfast items. The responsibility for this is coordinated by the room parent as the lead. Parents and children can participate with the shopping and preparation of the meal.

During the children's class time, a Social Action team member, working with the grade teacher, will discuss the I-HELP program and the mitzvot of helping those in need, feeding the hungry, and sheltering the homeless. Age-appropriate activities for the children include designing welcome dinner placemats and greeting cards, setting the dinner tables and packing the to-go bags etc. Educational materials include reading stories to the younger children, and for the older children and youth meeting with I-HELP Board members to learn about the program and its 30 years of assistance.

The goal is to infuse Judaism education with educational resources so that the children may gain a more comprehensive understanding concerning the causes, challenges, and solutions for homelessness. All of us involved are excited about this approach to an integrated education with appropriate activities for the children and youth, and most significantly, how, in our "small way", CBI participates each month in service to those who are less fortunate.

Arlene Krebs, Social Action Trustee
arlenekrebs123@gmail.com



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Margaret Harrit	5
Barbara Neil	7
Marva Hoffman	8
Maureen Chodosh	10
Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum	12
Robin Pelc	12
Robert Block	13
David Ehrenpreis	14
Amy Tackett	16
Richard Silang Baguio	17
Jeannette Stern	17
Amanda Freedman	18
Robin Goldberg	18
Stuart Chase	19
Lizbeth Davis	19
Diana Jacobson	20
Tricia Popky	21
Philip Sammet	21
Shel Lyons	24
Roger Shiffman	24
Jesse Entin	26
Mindy Maschmeyer	26
Jason Schnitzer	27
Beth Cort	29
Fred Cohn	30
Jeffrey David	30

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Seth & Naomi Pollack	14
Brynne Kaplan-Dau & Daniel J. Dau	18
Vivi & Paul Fenwick	25
Selina Glater & Cheryl Crose	27
Joel Leker & Juli Hofmann	31



Family News

Mazel Tov Gary & Judy Simon on the birth of their granddaughter Ripley Rey Schweitzer.

We mourn the passing of Linda Block, mother of Bobby Block and long-time CBI member Carol Lieberman. May their memories be for a blessing.

Our Congregation strives to offer love and support to fellow congregants in times of joy and celebration, as well as in times of trouble and sorrow. One of the ways we do this is to let the congregation know your news. Please let us know if there is a simcha you wish to share (or know someone else's that they are willing to share), or a wish of encouragement or condolence that can be shared. You can send this information to shalomcbi@aol.com to be included in the Shofar.



Welcome New CBI Families

Ilene & Neil Cantor
Nathan Cohen & Jordana Scheer
Larry & Judy Rubenstein



Eli and Matthew David Become B'nai Mitzvah



Jeffrey and Alison David are thrilled to announce that their identical twin sons, Eli and Matthew David, will be called to the torah for their B'nai Mitzvah on Saturday, October 8th, 2022.

Eli and Matthew lived the first 12 years of their lives up in Willow Glen in San Jose and attended Almaden Country Day School. Both boys are avid runners, coders, boogie boarders and pianists as well as phenomenal students, achieving straight A's consistently every semester. Eli and Matthew are currently 8th grade students at Carmel Middle School and continue their piano studies while Matthew runs cross country and Eli plays volleyball. They love mountain biking all over Ft. Ord and cannot wait to participate on their school track and field team in the spring.

Though only permanent residents of Carmel since August 2021, they are no

strangers to the Monterey Peninsula as they grew up visiting their grandparents, Elliott and Lori Scherling, here in Carmel all the time. It is their love of the beach and many, many early childhood days spent at the Monterey Bay Aquarium that has shaped their hopes for what their B'nai Mitzvah will celebrate: Being kind to the ocean and bringing awareness to cutting down our reliance on single use plastic. The theme of the boys' B'nai Mitzvah is, "We are all ocean advocates!" and they hope to use the gift of celebrating their B'nai Mitzvah as a platform to bring awareness to ocean health.



Congregation Beth Israel
October 2022
TISHREI ~ Chesvan 5783

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<p>Join us for Shabbat.</p> 	<p>30</p> <p>6:15 Shabbat Dinner</p> <p>7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service with Anniversary Blessings</p>	<p>1 October</p> <p>10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study</p>
<p>2</p> <p>No Religious School</p> <p>4:00 PM Yizkor Service @ Mission Memorial Park</p> <p>5:00 PM, I Help Men</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Kol Nidre</p> <p>7:00 PM Kol Nidre Services</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>Yom Kippur</p> <p>10:00 AM Morning Service</p> <p>See Full Schedule on Page 4</p> <p>*6:30 PM Break the Fast- Light Nosh</p> <p>*Times approximate</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:00 PM Erev Shabbat Outdoor Service with Birthday Blessings</p> <p>Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum & Cantor Alisa Fine lead</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>10:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service when Matthew & Elijah David become B'nai Mitzvah</p> <p>6:00 PM Havdalah on the Beach</p>
<p>9 Sukkah Building</p> <p>9:30 AM Religious School</p> <p>12:30 Aleynu</p> <p>2:30 Security Class</p>	<p>10 Sukkot</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>6:30 PM CBI Executive Committee Meets</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12:00 PM Lunch with Clergy – Cantor Fineman</p> <p>5:00 PM Worship Committee meets</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services with Cantor Alisa Fineman</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:30 AM Religious School</p> <p>Simchat Torah Service 11:00 to 12:30 pm</p>	<p>17 Simchat Torah</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>7:00 PM CBI Board of Trustees Meet</p>	<p>19</p> <p>4:00 PM Adult Biblical Hebrew</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:30 Erev Shabbat Services with Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum & Cantor Alisa Fine</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:30 AM Religious School</p> <p>12:30 PM Aleynu</p> <p>7:00 PM Guest Speaker Maggie Anton</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>1:00 PM Best Year Special Event – Elkon Slough Safari</p> <p>4:00 PM Adult Biblical Hebrew</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Shabbat Dinner</p>  <p>6:15 Shabbat Dinner</p> <p>7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service with Anniversary Blessings</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9:30 AM Religious School</p>	<p>31</p> <p>4:00 PM Women's I Help</p>					

TODAH RABBAH!

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Congregation Beth Israel

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High Holy Day Donations for Israel Bonds

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Torah Connections:

Vol. 173 October 2022, 5783

By Michael L. Waxer

Secret formulas

Judaism traditionally counts 613 commandments, of which 365 are 'negative' (do not....), and 248 are 'positive' (things that HaShem wants us to do). Oftentimes, however, there may be a direct conflict with the commandments, where keeping one may conflict with another. How does one decide what to do?

The classic example is that of a doctor, who is needed to save a life on Shabbat. On the one hand, there is a positive commandment to save a life, called 'Pikuach nefesh' (preservation of human life),

"... Do not stand inactive while the blood of your fellow is shed, I am HaShem." (Leviticus [Vayikra] 19:16)

Saving a human life is considered a fundamental principle in Judaism, because human life is sacred. However, in the ten commandments, which hold a special prominence in Judaism and certainly in other religions as well, there is a positive commandment regarding Shabbat,

"Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is the Sabbath to HaShem, your God, you may not do any work..." (Exodus [Shemot] 20:8-10).

So, if a doctor can save a life on Shabbat, is it permitted to 'violate' Shabbat? Our Sages gave us some 'secret formulas' to help us thru these issues. For example, in general, a positive commandment is of a higher standing than a negative commandment. However, in this case, both commandments are positive... ***to save a life***, and ***to make holy the Sabbath***.

Arguably, both of these positive commandments are 'foundational', in that Judaism is, to some extent, defined by both of these principles. The sanctification of human life, and the sanctification of the Sabbath. In fact, it is through the creation of Shabbat that we are introduced to the concept of holiness.

Our Sages looked to another verse, Leviticus (Vayikra) 18:3,

"You shall observe My decrees and My laws, which the man must do them so that he shall live by them, I am HaShem."

Since this says 'live by them', it is interpreted that 'living' takes precedence. One need not 'die for them', endangering their life in order to observe the commandments. From this, and other verses, our Sages determined that **there are only**

three commandments which one must not transgress if their life is at stake. Those three are:

1. Murder. One is not permitted to murder (kill an innocent person) in order to save their own life. Interestingly, this also applies to suicide. Innocent human life cannot be 'taken'.
2. Sexual misconduct, such as incest and bestiality.
3. Desecration of God's name, including idolatry.

These three types of transgressions all relate to the breakdown of society, and are stressed throughout the Torah. HaShem defines certain things as sins (missing the mark), others as perversions, depravations, profanities, abominations. These Hebrew words describe different 'levels' of sinking, different types of distancing from HaShem. It is beyond the scope of this discussion, but the level of separation is another ***secret to understanding*** how we can further develop spiritually, i.e. get closer to HaShem. In other words, ***committing a 'sin' is generally less severe than committing an 'abomination'.***

Wherever each of us are in our spiritual path, we should try to understand what HaShem has asked of us, ***for our own sake, so life will be better for us, our children, and our community. This is one reason why we read the Torah, in its entirety, each year, throughout our life.*** HaShem has given us these tools to elevate us, ***to connect us with the holy,***

As we celebrate Rosh Hashanah, then Yom Kippur ten days later, and then Simchat Torah twelve days later (which begins at the end of the seven days of Sukkot), we finish the last portion of the Torah, in Deuteronomy (Devarim), and immediately re-start reading the Torah, Genesis (Beresheet) 1:1. ***This annual tradition is a key element that has bound the Jewish people together for thousands of years.***

The mitzvot are the tools HaShem gave the Jewish people, and ***thru this spiritual elevation the world is healed. This flow of positive (spiritual) energy is very powerful, and is, arguably, a key aspect of why we are here, now, alive, in this time. The secret formulas help us make better decisions, so we can figure it out, and continually strive to do a little better, each day, each year.***

May this new year be filled with blessings of good health, spiritual development, love for HaShem and for each other, and for long life filled with goodness. Shanah Tovah.

This Torah Connection recognizes 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
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ANGELICA BLATT

Carmel Rancho
126 Clock Tower Pl., Ste. 100
Carmel, CA 93923
831-206-8070
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San Carlos 4 North West of 6th Ave.
Cottage Row #9, Serena Court
831-625-4CPA Fax 831-625-4273
Nancy@cpabythesea.com



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.

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Congregation Beth Israel
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Parshiot

October 1, Vayelech

T: Deuteronomy 31:1-31:30

H: Isaiah 55:6-56:8

October 8, Ha'azinu

T: Deuteronomy 32:1-52

H: II Samuel 22:1-51

October 15, Sukkot

T: Exodus 33:12-34:26

H: Ezekiel 38:18-39:16

October 22, Beresheet

T: Genesis 1:1-6:8

H: Isaiah 42:5-43:10

October 29, Noah

T: Genesis 6:9-11:32

H: Isaiah 54:1-55:5