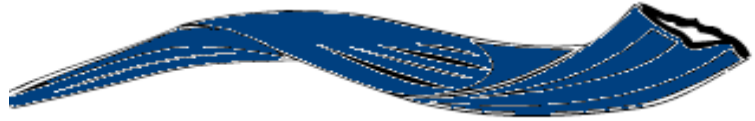


# SHOFAR



Monthly Newsletter of the Monterey Peninsula Jewish Community

[www.carmelbethisrael.org](http://www.carmelbethisrael.org)



## High Holiday Highlights

We are busy preparing for our 5783 High Holiday Season. As you will see, there are many dynamic plans that will enrich our Holy Days. We are excited to share that Cantorial Alisa Fineman and Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum will lead multi-access services this year. Unless something changes in the next month, we hope up to 200 people who are fully vaccinated will join us in person for services in the sanctuary/social hall. For joining us in person, CBI members will be given priority over guests. CBI members are asked to RSVP to attend Holy Day services in person by calling the CBI office by September 21. We are also providing an online option for those who are not vaccinated or who choose to participate virtually. On both Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur days we will hold a family/children's service outdoors in our lower lot. We hope all who want to join us will attend these children services (no age limitations). The two family/children's services will not be offered online.

This year Rosh HaShanah begins with our evening service on Sunday, September 25 at 7:00 pm. The next morning, Monday, September 26, we start with our adult morning service both online and in person in our sanctuary/social hall at 10:00 am. The family and children's outdoor service begins at 12:30. That afternoon we reconvene on Carmel beach at 4:00.

*Continued on Page 4*



## Havdalah on the Beach September 10

Hopefully you are looking forward to this month's Havdalah on the beach as much as we are. Enjoy a relaxing evening visiting with friends and relatives around our CBI fire pit and some nice singing. Join Rabbi Greenbaum and Cantor Alisa Fineman for our monthly Havdalah on the Beach Saturday night, **September 10** on Carmel Beach below 13<sup>th</sup>. We begin **at 7:00 p.m.** but you can come early and enjoy a picnic dinner before our Havdalah service. Rabbi Greenbaum will bring fixings for s'mores. You bring 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...

As we approach another High Holy Day season and the New Year 5783, I have to admit that I am struggling. One example of my personal struggle, I am more confused trying to understand time. Following Covid guidelines led to not seeing many CBI members and almost never going out. This seemed to slow everything down. But it feels like just recently I was expending energy preparing for last year's holidays. How are days feeling slower, but the months and years seemingly flying by? At times it feels like I have no control of my life. I'm watching my kid's lives evolve and wondering what happened to the children who used to live under our roof. Is one of my babies really helping direct a Cal Poly program?

And when did those CBI children that I helped with their naming ceremony graduate from college? How long has that Bat Mitzvah child been married? Making the mistake of looking in the mirror, I have to ask myself, when did those smile lines become permanent deep wrinkles? How did my brown hair suddenly turn gray? I, like many of you, struggle to accept and understand how the years seem to disappear.

One lesson I have learned, it is important to care for yourself. While I am blessed to have a wonderful wife to help look after me (thanks Susan!) it is my responsibility to care for myself. Not all of us have a life partner. What steps do we take to keep ourselves healthy? Are we able to ask neighbors and friends to help us? If you need it, CHOMP has a program where they call people every day just to check and make sure you are okay. Please consider calling CHOMP and signing up for this program if you live alone.

Rosh HaShanah is about leaving our pasts behind and preparing for a new year. Once again we

get a chance to make changes that will improve our lives. What bad habits might we set aside as we leave 5782 behind us? Will this be the year we finally work on improving our health? Is this the year we will take more time to develop our spirituality? Will we take advantage of the time God has blessed us with to explore our place in this wondrous creation? What talents will we nurture or develop? What friendships might we create or strengthen? How might we better spend our time and energy? What priorities might we shift?

Psalm 121 reminds us to lift our eyes to the mountains and remember that our help comes from God, maker of heaven and earth. This Holy Day season may each of us do what is needed to better care for ourselves. Only when the flame within us is burning bright can we then light the flames of those around us. Let's start by helping ourselves and then turn to help those around us.

Susan and my daughters Liotte, Shira and Tani join me in wishing everyone in our congregation a healthy, happy New Year. May each of us go from strength to strength. Amen.





## From Cantor Alisa

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

Dear CBI Community,  
My appreciation for our Jewish calendar continues to deepen over time. It carries our stories and history along with the

marking of the seasons, our gatherings around harvest times and offerings of gratitude, designating times to rest, to reflect, to wonder, to grieve, to rejoice, to fast, to feast, and to grow ourselves in the awareness that our lives are finite, that life is a gift.

Our calendar moves us now into another season of our lives; from the month of Av, a time we are encouraged to face the brokenness in our world and the pieces we wish to keep to rebuild the world of our hopes and dreams; to the month of Elul, a time of opening ourselves to the truth that we are loved by a Never Ending Love, preparing us with deep compassion for the work of T'shuvah-- forgiveness and returning-- when the new moon comes and brings us the majesty of the High Holy Days season. I find myself awed at this choreography, the potential it holds for our personal transformation and spiritual understanding on our life journeys.

Traditionally read every day throughout the month of Elul and the High Holy Day season is Psalm 27: "...One thing I ask of You, Adonai, for this I yearn; to dwell in God's house all the days of my life and behold the beauty of this world.." Imagine if we could ask for one thing, what might it be? This is a time of asking and seeking. The Psalmist expresses a yearning to carry God's Temple within them. We too might ask: where does God's temple live in me?

These holidays and observances are intended to help us mark time and seasons, the wonders, gains, and losses of our lives, to offer comfort, to remind us we are not alone. They have the potential to infuse our spiritual lives and intellect with wisdom and inspiration and to realign and strengthen our priorities to do good in the world, to be a light unto the nations and to those in our midst. It takes work, and perhaps why it's called "spiritual practice!"

I look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead to "practice" with all of you on Friday nights throughout the month of Elul with Rabbi Bruce and Rabbi Jeff, to sing, and to pray, tending our inner lives and the spiritual core of our community.

In Song and Blessing, Cantor Alisa

## From Our President, Malina Breaux

I have big plans for my term as president with 2 priorities. First, the building. Our beautiful building here at CBI needs a lot of TLC. There is a long list of deferred maintenance that shouldn't be put off any longer. Just look at the carpet in the sanctuary. It's the original carpet from when the building was built. No one except Rabbi Bruce can open and close the wall between the sanctuary and the social hall because only he knows "the trick". Same with the wall in the classroom. The sounds system is falling apart, the floor in the social hall has trip hazards, the roof is overdue for replacement, the hot water heater could go any time, and on and on. Without any confirmation, my guess is that we will need somewhere around \$800k to get all the work done. I'd love to say that I would get all this done in my 2 years, but with only \$80K in the Building & Grounds fund, I don't think that's possible. I always say, "CBI is a faith based organization" and I have faith that it will all get done, if we as a congregation make it a priority. Second is membership.

My goal is to increase membership at CBI by 20% during my term as president. And to increase member participation by 30%. I want CBI to be a place where every Jew is comfortable. Beryl Levinger gave a presentation at services a few months ago about the different type of Jews. There are Religious Jews, there are Secular Jews, Jews by Birth, Jews by Conversion, Jews by Guilt, Jews who like to cook and Jews who like to eat, and on and on. I remember sitting at some event here at CBI, I don't remember what, but in conversation the person sitting next to me said "I'm a bad Jew. I don't come to services". I don't want anyone to feel like a "Bad Jew". There are so many ways that we can express our Judaism. I want CBI to be the place everyone wanting to be Jewish has the opportunity to express their version of what that means.





We'll all be together on Friday evening, September 9<sup>th</sup> on Shabbat. Please join us.

Rabbi Jeff Schulman



*Continued from Page 1*

for our Tashlich gathering. Second day Rosh HaShanah services are on Tuesday, September 27, starting at 10:30 am. Dr. Beryl Levinger will share a message during the second day Rosh HaShanah service.

On the weekend between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur, Sunday afternoon, October 2 at 4:00, we will gather for a short community memorial service in our CBI Cemetery Gan HaZikaron located in Mission Memorial Park in Seaside.

Kol Nidre services begin Tuesday evening, October 4, at 7:00 pm. Our main morning Yom Kippur service begins Wednesday at 10:00 am followed by our outdoor family and children's service at 12:30 pm. Starting at 1:30 Beryl Levinger will lead a Yom Kippur discussion and David Sabih will lead a study of the book of Jonah. The afternoon service led mainly by Rabbi Jeff Schulman and Cantor Alisa Fineman begins at 3:00 pm. The Yizkor service starts at approximately 4:45 pm and a closing service begins at approximately 5:30 pm. Again, all services will be in person in our sanctuary/social hall for those who are fully vaccinated or online for those who are not vaccinated or who choose to participate virtually rather than in person. **NO TICKETS are needed** for our Holy Day services; however, we ask that you register in advance with Abby King in the CBI office. If you have not previously provided proof of vaccination, please do so ahead of time. Military personnel and other guests are all welcome. Of course, CBI gladly accepts donations to help defray Holy Day costs which this year included increased security and our upgraded technology.

Following our closing service, we will break the fast with challah and a variety of beverages.

We wish everyone L'Shanah Tovah, a Happy New Year.

## Please join us for an Elul Shabbat at CBI, outdoors on September 9th at 6PM

One of the great joys of the Hebrew language is that it offers a rich landscape for our imaginings. Words open themselves to multiple interpretations. There are myriads of possible meanings within each letter.

An example is the Hebrew name of this month, Elul. It's a loan word from the Babylonian and Akkadian languages that could mean harvest. When moved to Hebrew, midrashically, the four letters of the word Elul become the first letters of four words, Ani l'Dodi v'Dodi Li pointing to Shir HaShirim, the Song of Songs, "I am my Beloved's, and my Beloved is mine." We are invited to pay attention to the sweetness of our lives, to a love that forms the foundation of the world. Not a love we earn, but a love that is a gift. Rumi teaches, "this moment, this love, comes to rest in me." In Elul, we re-member this. We receive it as a way of coming home to the fullest expression of our inner experience.

There is a poem I come back to over and over again titled "From Blossoms" by Li-Young Lee. On the surface it's about our adoration of peaches. Deeper though it's a poem about bringing what we love inside, gathering the seasons of our lives into a bounty of sweetness, and from within this bounty we come home. From the poem:

"O, to take what we love inside,  
to carry within us an orchard, to eat  
not only the skin but the shade,  
not only the sugar, but the days, to hold  
the fruit in our hands, adore it, then bite into  
the round jubilation of peach."

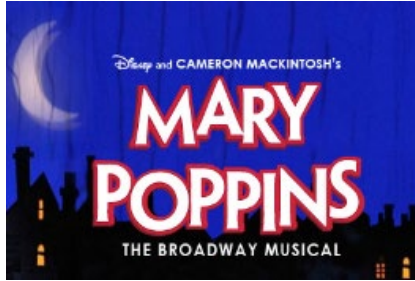
Cantor Alisa and I have the honor, with you in our circle, to be guides together on our Elul journeys.



## Another Theater Gathering

Join us for what is always a fun family (or singles) event. We will be meeting at the Forest Theater on Sunday, **September 4 for a 4:00 PM**

showing of Mary Poppins! Call the CBI office at 624-2015 to order your discounted tickets. We will sit together and enjoy some treats that CBI will provide for our members. Make sure to dress in layers for this outdoor show. What a wonderful way to celebrate as we near the end of our Jewish calendar year.



## Lunch with Our Clergy

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

**September 7 at noon** at an outdoor table on the patio of Baja Cantina, located about a mile east of CBI. This month Rabbi will lead a discussion on "A New Year with New Changes at CBI and in our lives." With Rosh HaShanah just weeks away, what changes might we experience in 5783? How is CBI evolving as we enter this New Year? What changes might we make at home or professionally? Come prepared to offer your thoughts.

Call (624-2015) or email ([shalomCBI@aol.com](mailto:shalomCBI@aol.com)) the CBI office to RSVP.

We will order off their regular menu so expect lunch to cost approximately \$15-\$20.



## Selichot Study and Worship

Observance of the Jewish Holy Day Season begins with Selichot Services held on a Saturday night before Rosh Hashanah, this year on September 17. The mood of the service is reflective, and like the entire month of Elul, is used to set a certain "kavanah" or intention with which to commence the High Holy Days.

Join us in our social hall (if you are fully vaccinated) or you can choose to participate virtually on Zoom that **Saturday, September 17 beginning at 7:00 pm** as we join with Rabbi Jeffrey Schulman for our first hour of study.

At 8:00 we will enjoy a second hour of learning, this time spent with Cantor Alisa Fineman as she shares with us songs and melodies from our High Holy Day season.

At 9:00 our Selichot observance will continue with a service as we shift into our sanctuary (and continue virtually on zoom). Together we will reflect on how we turn towards God, *teshuvah*, during our Holy Day season. During this service we exchange our green Torah mantels to the Holy Day white covering.

Please share with us in this annual evening of study and prayer. By taking your place in our congregational family, you will be enriched and strengthened.

**Please update your contacts with Rabbi's new email address.**

**[RabbiG@CarmelBethIsrael.org](mailto:RabbiG@CarmelBethIsrael.org)**



# BEST YEARS

## Best Years-Another Free Lunch!

Join us for lunch on **Thursday, September 22 at noon** as we enjoy what should be a warm sunny day in the outdoor seating area at California Pizza Kitchen in the Del Monte Center. Meet us at the restaurant. This free lunch, paid by the CBI Senior Endowment Fund will be a fun way to visit with other CBI members and enjoy a delicious meal. Ideas for future Best Years events should be shared with the rabbi. Do you have a suggestion for a program or speaker or outing? Join us as we visit with friends and feast on a delicious meal. Drinks are included as well! To RSVP for this program call or email the CBI office at 624-2015 or shalomcbi@aol.com. Please let us know if you need a ride for this event.



## Join Us For Community Shabbat Dinner!

We are so excited to resume our monthly tradition of Shabbat dinners, prepared by Malina Breau and her entourage of assistants. Savor a sense of community and food worthy of celebration at **6:15 PM on Friday, September 30.**

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:

**September 13, 1:30 PM, home of Karen Wiskoff.**

**Book: THE EMPATHY DIARIES by**

**Sherry Turkle.** Karen lives at Carmel Valley Manor, 8545 Carmel Valley Road. You **MUST** come with a mask and your Covid vaccination record card. At the gate, you will have your temperature recorded and may be asked to show proof of vaccination. There is room for only **TWO** cars to park at our cottage, so please RSVP if you are coming and arrange with each other to **CAR POOL.**

**October 11, 1:30 PM, home to be determined.**

**Book: THE PROMISE: A NOVEL by Damon Galgut**

Our warmest thank-you to Suellen for hosting Book Club for so many months after we began to meet again in person.

JEWISH YEAR	5783
SECULAR YEAR	Sept 2022- Sept 2023
Rosh HaShanah	Sept 25-27
Yom Kippur	Oct 4-5
Sukkot	Oct 9-16
Sh'mini Atzeret-Simchat Torah	Oct 16-17
Hanukkah	Dec 18-26
Tu Bishvat	Feb 5-6
Purim	Mar 6-7
Passover	Apr 5-12
Yom HaShoah	Apr 17-18
Yom HaZikaron	Apr 24-25
Yom HaAtzmaut	Apr 25-26
Lag BaOmer	May 8-9
Shavuot	May 25-26
Tishah B'Av	July 26-27
Selichot Service	Sept 9





## Hesed Academy (Developing Kind Souls) starts September 11!

As I type this message, more registrations keep appearing for our Sunday religious school program. I am excited to accept the role of directing the school with Cantor Alisa Fineman as our assistant school director. Over the summer I have hired a fabulous group of teachers and worked with them as we created a stimulating curriculum. Using some basic Jewish values including Tzedakah, Gemilut Chasidim, Tikkun Olam and Clal Yisrael our students will be studying the Jewish Life Cycle (K/1/2), our Torah narrative (3/4), Biblical and Modern Israel (5), Pirke Avot and the Holocaust (6/7). Each Sunday our school will start at 9:30. Each week our students will have time with one of our specialists (art, cooking, music, and storytelling), enjoy Tefillah in the sanctuary, and spend time on their specific class curriculum. Students in Kindergarten through second grade will be dismissed at 11:30 and the older students will stay until 12:30 and include Hebrew studies as part of their Sunday learning.

Cantor Fineman is completing the process of finding all the students who will serve as Madrichim (student aides) and formulating the Aleynu (8-12 grade) curriculum. I hope all students will recognize this wonderful opportunity to study with Cantor Alisa every other week. I remind them that becoming Bar and Bat Mitzvah means completing their childhood studies and now is the time to begin their Jewish studies as young adults.


With the threat of the coronavirus still present, most of our class time will be spent outdoors. Regarding students wearing masks indoors, our plan is to follow the practices being followed by our local school districts. Currently the public schools and

our policy is: we will recommend but not require our students to wear masks when we are indoors.


If you have any questions about Hesed Academy, please call me. I am happy to address any concerns or clarify how we are approaching our youth education this upcoming school year.

May our children all be blessed with growth of body and soul in 5783.

Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum



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## **Congregation Beth Israel**

5716 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel, CA

831-624-2015

### **HIGH HOLY DAYS SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

Rabbi Bruce D. Greenbaum and Cantor Alisa Fineman

#### **SELICHOT**

(Preparing yourself for the Holy Days)

**Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 p.m. 2 Study Sessions

9:00 p.m. Service

#### **ROSH HASHANAH**

**Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah

**Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 a.m. Morning Service

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

4:00 p.m. Tashlich on Carmel Beach  
below 13<sup>th</sup>

**Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 a.m. Second Day Service

#### **MEMORIAL SERVICE**

**Sunday, October 2**

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

#### **YOM KIPPUR**

**Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 p.m. Kol Nidre Service

**Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**

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 and a variety  
of beverages

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

#### **SUKKAH BUILDING**

**Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**

Sukkah Building

During Religious School Morning

#### **SIMCHAT TORAH SERVICE**

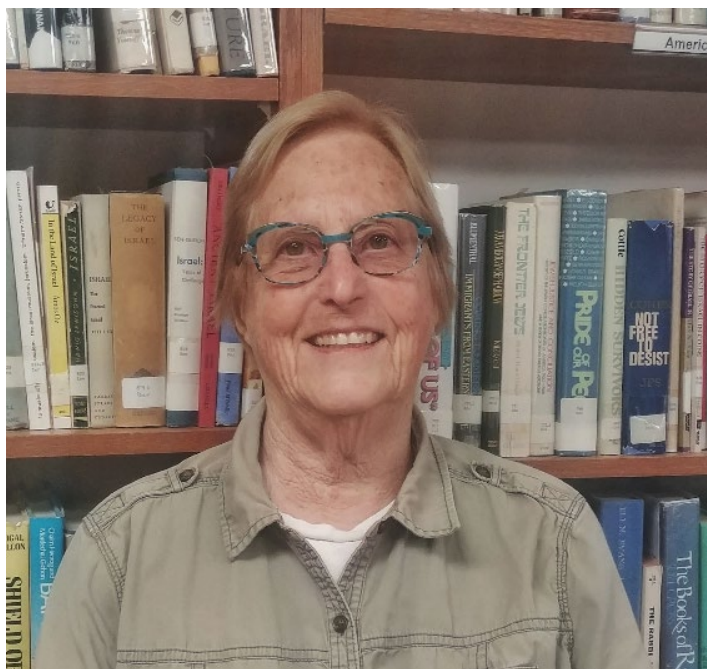
**Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**

11:00-12:30

No Tickets Required

Masks are recommended for all, and required if you are not fully  
vaccinated; or you can join us online.





## Meet Rosemary Lande

CBI has been part of my life for about fifty years. My late husband, Bob, and I moved to Carmel in 1967. Both of our sons were born here (Jason in 1971, and Micah in 1976). Both became Bar Mitzvah at CBI. It is safe to say that I am one of the matriarchs of CBI (along with Barbara Lipman, Imogene Speiser, Bee Epstein-Shepherd, and others). I have also recently accepted that I am now the matriarch of my own family. Getting older brings on new responsibilities and relieves one of others. I was widowed in 2001 and appreciate the support and companionship I have received from CBI over the ensuing years.

A little personal background may be of interest. I was born in Chicago, moved to Los Angeles at a young age, and spent most of my school years on Long Island in Great Neck, New York. When my parents moved back to Los Angeles, I transferred to UCLA. After graduation, my first job was with IBM at the very beginning of the computer revolution. Luckily, women were welcome in that environment. After marriage, I lived and worked in Palo Alto while my husband, Bob, pursued a graduate degree. We spent a year in Warsaw, Poland from 1965-1966 on an exchange program and had time to travel through

Western and Eastern Europe. When we returned, I followed my husband and we settled in Carmel as he taught at the Naval Postgraduate School, and then at Monterey Institute of International Studies. I spent several years working as a computer scientist at the Naval Postgraduate School and Naval Research Laboratory, retiring in 2001.

In addition to work, family occupied most of my time. As you know, the Monterey Peninsula is an ideal place to raise a family. So, from co-op nursery school at Bay School, through two boys progressing through the Carmel School District, Bob and I kept busy. There were swim meets, soccer games, and other school and sports activities to attend.

My interests have been traveling, reading, gardening, and maintaining friendships. Oftentimes it is with whom you travel which is as important as where you go. Favorite trips have been several cruises and land trips (Mexico, Alaska, Australia, New Zealand, European rivers, African safari). Hawaii family vacations are highlights. Of course, it is always great to return to our own home for a Carmel "vacation." Though in recent years I have not been able to pursue tennis myself, I am an ardent vicarious sports enthusiast for almost any sport.

As for CBI, I have volunteered for several events and participated in a variety of ways over the years. I have been on the Board of Trustees. In my early years at CBI rabbis came and went. We started out in a converted school building in the Ord Grove neighborhood in Monterey (before which services were held in homes or churches). The current building has offered a spiritual and communal gathering place, and is my religious home. The CBI community is extremely important to me, mostly for the people involved. I wish more people would attend the Saturday morning study sessions, lunches, and dinners, as well as the services and other ever-increasing activities.

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



## Fall-ing Into Action!

Summer fades, autumn begins, we observe High Holidays, elections are coming up as we enter the fall season with “actions on the horizon”!

### I-HELP @ 30!

I-HELP celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> year anniversary with Rabbi Bruce and Rabbi Jeff at the helm, serving a delicious Pasta dinner! I was there with CBI and also with the Lambourne Institute for Life Mastery/LILM (I’m on that BoD). LILM is our partner and provides the funds and serves women when CBI hosts them on months with a 5<sup>th</sup> Monday, which occurred this August 29. The women enjoyed a delicious fusion-Asian dinner!

We hosted the I-HELP Men on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend. Malina Breaux cooked dinner that night—a “wonder woman” after all that she organized, baked, and cooked for our Jewish Food Festival. John, one of the I-HELP men who serves as a monitor asked if he could cook a brisket, and so he and Malina worked together in our kitchen to prepare a delicious dinner.

The I-HELP Social Action Team and Rabbi Bruce and Cantor Alisa, co-directors of the Hesed Academy, are planning this year’s support for hosting the men. From October through March, Religious School parents and children will purchase foods for dinner, and the “to-go” breakfast and lunch bags.

Age-appropriate activities for the children include designing welcome dinner placemats and greeting cards, setting the dinner tables and packing the to-go bags. Members of the Social Action team will visit with the RS classes so that the children may learn about some of the causes of homelessness, how local organizations assist those who are unsheltered, and how we at CBI do “our small part” with our participation in I-HELP.

### **“Abortion Access is a Jewish Value—Plain & Simple.”**

Yeah for Kansas voters! Yeah! for Jewish religious law that values the sacredness of self-determination and women’s health. I’ve been participating (albeit sporadically) in various online meetings concerning support for Pro-Choice legislation and support for women who must travel out-of-state to secure an abortion. Here are two organizations providing lots of information and ways for you to learn, participate and support:

The Union for Reform Judaism/URJ: “The safety of every person in our community is our sacred moral responsibility.” <https://urj.org/what-we-believe/resolutions/abortion>

Tikkun Olam actualizes our social justice beliefs through advocacy campaigns, direct work, funding support, voter registration and much more! Learn about URJ’s Religious Action Center/RAC: <https://rac.org/>

National Council on Jewish Women: The NCJW is mobilizing the Jewish Community to advance abortion access with a Week of Action, September 12-16, including lobbying Congress, storytelling avenues, volunteer activities and fundraising. Visit its [website](https://jewsforabortionaccess.org): <https://jewsforabortionaccess.org>

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

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jim Sammet	1
Scott Fetherston	2
Barbara Kreitman	3
Barbara Holland	5
Cynthia Koehne	5
Jonah Kelton	6
Amanda Mello	9
Laela Leavy	11
Alisa Fineman	13
DeeDee Chambers	14
Marsha Kelly	14
Susan Gorelick	16
Phyllis Newman	19
Senen Baguio	20
Daniel Dau	20
Samuel Lipsky	21
Arlene Krebs	25
Zia Shapiro	25
Richard Bloom	26
Judy Levin	7
Santiago Ramirez	28
Kimball Hurd	30

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Kenneth & Shelley Kroopf	1
Jeffrey & Alison David	2
Michael Dicus & Catherine Winter	3
Steven & Barbara Neil	4
Jason & Julie Schnitzer	5
Michael & Constance Kean	15
Robert Fenton & Debra Givner	16
Leonard Laub & Yvonne Ascher	16
Michael Marshall & Kirsten Marshall	16
Joseph & Carol Mironov	17
Pauline & Anthony Troia	17
Harlan & Elizabeth Grogin	18
Richard & Margaret Harrit	21
Michael & Irene Krasner	22

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 \$360







# Congregation Beth Israel

## Elul ~ Tishri 5782

### September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	29	30  7:00 PM Board of Trustees meet	31	1  <b>Traditions</b>	2  6:00 PM Family Shabbat Services, Outdoor In person & Zoom	3  10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study in person & Zoom
4  4:00 Mary Poppins Forest Theatre  5:00 PM I-Help Men	5 	6	7   12:00 PM Lunch with the Clergy	8	9  6:00 PM Outdoor Erev Shabbat Service with Cantor Alisa Fineman & Rabbi Jeff Schulman	10  10:30 AM Shabbat Morning Torah Study in person and on  7:00 PM Havdalah on Carmel Beach below 13 <sup>th</sup> St.
11 9:30 AM First Day of Religious School   12:30 PM Aleynu	12	13  6:30 PM Executive Committee Meets	14	15	16  7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Greenbaum & Cantor Alisa in person & Zoom	17 SELICHOT  10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study in person & on Zoom  7:00 PM Selichot 2 Study Sessions  9:00 PM Selichot Service
18  9:30 AM Religious School	19	20  7:00 PM CBI Board of Trustees Meets	21 HHD Member reservation deadline	22  12:00 PM Best Years lunch out at Calif. Pizza Kitchen	23  7:30 PM Shabbat Services in person & Zoom with Rabbi Greenbaum & Cantor Alisa	24 10:30 AM Morning Torah Study in person and on Zoom
25 Erev Rosh Hashanah No Religious School   7:00 PM Erev Rosh Hashanah Service	26 Rosh Hashanah  10:00 Morning Service  12:30 PM Family Service Outdoors  4:00 PM Tashlich on Carmel Beach	27 2 <sup>nd</sup> Day Rosh Hashanah 10:30 Service 	28	29	30  6:15 PM Shabbat Dinner  7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services with Anniversary Blessings led by Rabbi Greenbaum In Person & Zoom	1 October  10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study in person and on

# TODAH RABBAH!

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

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Vic & Rena Feuerstein: in memory of Vic's  
mother, Eve S. Feuerstein

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father, Edward Goldhamer

## Thank you to our Oneg Hosts for the Month of August

August 5<sup>th</sup> – Bev Nussbaum hosting in memory of her  
mother Rose Levine Davis

August 12<sup>th</sup>- Rosemary Lande hosting in honor of  
Micah & Stacy's Anniversary, the Anniversary of her  
parents and Family Birthdays in the month of August.

August 19<sup>th</sup>- Bobbie Ehrenpreis hosting in memory of  
her mother Ann Elinsky.

August 26<sup>th</sup> – Jewish Food Festival Committee in  
honor of the Food Festival and all of the wonderful  
volunteers that make this event happen.

Please consider hosting an Oneg. Call the CBI office to  
schedule your Oneg at 831-624-2015. Or call Lois Epel  
at 831-625-3137.

**September and October dates available!**



## **Torah Connections:**

**Vol. 172 September 2022, 5782/83**

By Michael L. Waxer

### **Being on the Roof**

**“If you build a new house you should make a guardrail for your roof, in order that you not bring blood upon your house if a fallen one falls from it.”** (Deuteronomy [Devarim] 22:8)

Upon first glance, this seems logical enough. In fact, having such a simple and straight-forward commandment is almost refreshing. We can easily understand the literal meaning, and we can move on. But, is there anything you notice in the wording that seems a bit odd..?

Notice the words “...if a fallen one falls from it.” We might have expected it to have said “...if someone falls from it”. What does it mean, ‘fallen one’?

Using the PaRDeS system of reading Torah, we already can understand the Pshat, or literal, meaning of this commandment. At a higher level of understanding we can use this clue to help remind us to read the verse in a way that expands its meaning. First, we should all remember that we read this same verse each year in the chapter of Ki Teitzei, in the last book of Torah, Deuteronomy, in the Hebrew month of Elul, just shortly before the new Year, Rosh Hashanah.

During the Rosh Hashanah process, each of us tries to elevate, to go ‘up to the roof’. We shed layers of everyday temporal life, and we attempt to gain a new vantage point, to give us new perspectives, to refocus. We may make promises to ourselves and to HaShem, of how we want to improve ourselves, and to help others. But there are dangers with scaling the heights.

We will inevitably fall from this elevated consciousness, as *this is built into the nature of the world*. Many of us will not be able to fully keep our sincere desire to become better. Perhaps we will stay true to our commitment for a short time, but life often ‘gets in the way’. Some might say that we should not scale up to the roof, that it is too dangerous, what is the point?

**The fear of likely failure should not deter us from wanting to get onto ‘the roof’.** HaShem, in fact, makes this point, as we are NOT told that we shouldn’t build, nor does HaShem tell people to NOT go up to the roof. Rather, we should provide protections for people, so as they move forward on their journey there are safeguards, i.e. guardrails.

In this higher-level interpretation, the guardrail symbolizes our awareness that we will inevitably fall (fall short of our goal). By approaching our desire to elevate with *humbleness*

and humility, we can then see that our ‘fall’ is purposeful. Without the fence, there is no guard to the ego that might otherwise inflate as we experience the joy of these higher spiritual levels. As we take each step higher we increase the potential of falling.

The process of ‘falling’ could be said is a necessary component of our soul development, as it forces us to limit our ego. **Limiting our ego** is a key aspect of empowering one’s soul (neshama).

Further, by knowing there is a guardrail on the roof, it is easier for us to get up to the roof. We need not be afraid. The fence provides a safer space for us to ascend, so we are able to see the new horizon, to gain the new perspective. Knowing this guardrail (of humbleness) is there creates a safe space for us to explore, without fear of failure.

**We actually have uncovered the reason for all the mitzvot**, which is a wonderful paradox. By providing clear and fixed boundaries our souls are able to soar free. I like to think of them as reliable reference points. They can also be thought of as the foundation, structure, and guardrails of the building. The mitzvot give us a structure, providing us the ability to freely move about in the building (ourselves), and ultimately elevate to the roof (letting our soul spread and develop).

Our purpose is to elevate, rectify, heal, be holy. The process is to keep moving up. The nature of our world is that we will progress *and then fall*. This process is referred to as ‘**run and return**’. The tzaddik (righteous souls) **will keep getting up**. That is the key to ascending, to our soul development, and to drawing closer to HaShem. Elevate (ascend), setback (fall), get back up (strengthen resolve, developing spiritual ‘muscles’ in the process), elevate just a bit more (ascend back to where you were and perhaps one step further).... **Repeat**.

This verse tells us to **live our lives (build new homes), elevate ourselves (go up to the roof), approach our elevation with humility** because we know there is danger (*build a guardrail*), **control our ego by knowing that it is natural to stumble**. When we fall our ego is naturally attenuated, as it is a humbling experience. If we would not fall, we might end up deifying ourselves!

That is one reason why we read this commandment each year, just a few weeks before we embark on this annual holiday, *Rosh Hashanah*, which challenges us to ascend, both physically and spiritually.

*This Torah Connection recognizes ‘Orchard of Delights’ by Rabbi Avraham Trugman for insight, but is the sole responsibility of the author and specifically does NOT necessarily reflect those of the Board of Trustees of CBI, CBI, its membership, Reform Judaism, or Judaism. Please send any comments to the author at: [mlwaxer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mlwaxer@sbcglobal.net).*



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## **Parshiot**

### **September 3, Shoftim**

**T: Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9**  
**H: Isaiah 51:12-52:12**

### **September 10, Ki Tetze**

**T: Deuteronomy  
 21:10-25:19**  
**H: Isaiah 54:1-10**

### **September 17, Ki Tavo**

**T: Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8**  
**H: Isaiah 60:1-22**

### **September 24, Nitzavim**

**T: Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20**  
**H: Isaiah 61:10-63:9**

