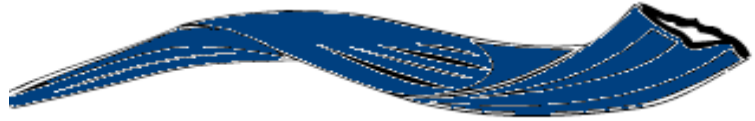


SHOFAR



Monthly Newsletter of the Monterey Peninsula Jewish Community

www.carmelbethisrael.org



Guest Speaker:

Blue Suede Jews: Jews who Rock

Join us on **Saturday, November 5 at 7:30 PM** for a special evening with Richie Unterberger. He is the author of numerous rock history books including volumes on the Beatles, the Who, the Velvet Underground, Bob Marley, and 1960 folk-rock.

Since rock music began, Jews have been crucial to its evolution as songwriters and performers. Author and rock music historian Richie Unterberger will present this program in our social hall. He will 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 that might surprise you.



Deli and a Movie Night at CBI

Join us **Saturday, November 12 at 6:00 PM** for a delicious dinner followed by the

showing of the movie "Tel Aviv on Fire." CBI President Malina Breaux is planning a feast including pastrami and corned beef along with all the fixings to make mouth-watering sandwiches. With pickles, coleslaw, and of course good deli mustard, no one will be hungry at the end of the meal. We even have Dr. Browns Sodas to make this meal complete! A vegetarian option will be available.

After dinner enjoy the award-winning film "Tel Aviv on Fire" on our large movie screen. The film was internationally co-produced as a comedy-drama satire film. It premiered internationally at the [75th Venice International Film Festival](#) in the Orizzonti section, where [Kais Nashef](#) won the Best Actor award. The Israeli premiere was at the [Haifa International Film Festival](#), where the film won the Best Film and Best Screenplay awards.

For both the dinner and movie the cost is \$36 per person. Please call or email the CBI office by November 8 to RSVP. Enjoy a great Saturday night out and support CBI by joining us.





From the Rabbi's Desk...

As November approaches, we see more and more ads on television, and yard signs asking for us to support this candidate, or that proposition. We are told who is supporting or against each proposition. Both the Democrat and Republican parties send out their reminders of who we should vote for. We see debates on our national channels followed by hours of discussions of who won and who we should support. If you are like me, you find some of it interesting, but most of it overwhelming.

Yes, I will read the information about each proposition and then make my decisions. Yes, I already have a pretty good idea of who I am voting for and can articulate why I am supporting them. But no, I am not going to share that with you.

I will strongly encourage you to vote. Whether you vote the same way I do or not, I hope everyone uses their freedom to vote. If you choose not to vote, please recognize you really have given up your right to complain about how the elections turn out. Even when I am certain my vote is with the losing candidate, I still want to express my support of who I think might best serve in office. And just maybe, my single vote will make the difference.

Having shared all that, I want to assure you that is as political as I want to get. I do not endorse candidates from the pulpit. I do not use my position as a clergy leader to delve into politics. My only position is that you should vote; not how you should vote.

But some will complain that I am already too political. The challenge is almost everything can be seen as being political. When I spoke about the importance of getting vaccinated (Jewish value of taking care of one's health) I was told I was being too political. When I spoke out against gun violence and limiting the number of guns in society (Jewish value of sustaining life) I was told I was being too political. When I spoke about the need of providing health care for everyone in our society (Jewish value of caring for the poor) I was told I was too political. The examples go on and on.

Please know that our Jewish heritage from the Bible and Talmud guides us how to live our daily lives. More than just telling us how to celebrate holidays and life cycle events, our commandments direct us in our daily decisions. Whether it is abortion or health care or women's rights, or environment issues, our tradition is filled with suggested guidelines.

You might have noticed I try to always focus on the weekly Torah portion as the foundation of my Shabbat sermons. Even my Moshe the Monkey stories are based on values taught in that week's Torah parsha. For example, on Rosh Hashanah I talked about self-healing based on the binding of Isaac narrative. If you feel I am being too political, I am happy to discuss it with you.

I am proud to be an American and do not take lightly my responsibilities when it comes to voting. I am also happy to discuss with you privately why I vote the way I do. Publicly I will always try to share my interpretation of how I believe our Jewish values guide and direct us. If you ever disagree with what I share from the pulpit, I am happy to discuss your concerns with you. One of the many things I love about Judaism is how it encourages learning through debate and discussion. After all, that is what the Talmud is. It is a series of debates between generations of rabbis and scholars about every topic imaginable. I hope you will join me in the ongoing debate of how best to live our lives as Jews in America today.





Message From Cantor Alisa

A Season of Harvest

What have we harvested
from these weeks of
t'shuvah?

Since mid-summer, we've
been learning to hold loss,
while opening to love

To rebuild the temple of hearts
And held in that place of never-ending love, felt safer
To move deeper into our practice of *t'shuvah*—
The season of forgiveness, of realignment, at-one-
ment
Grounding in the wisdom of a majestic power
beyond our own
Of mortality, and the gift of life from whom all
blessings flow
These truly have been days of awe

We made Havdalah, broke our fast
And no sooner, found ourselves sitting outside, in the
sukkah
Adorning a fragile hut, reflecting on promises made
The insights we harvested, things we'd like to do
better
Yearning to dwell in this place, this truth, this
relationship

all the days of our lives

Awakening to the bounty of the earth
Seeing ourselves as a part of the beauty and temple
of God's world

These are our "appointed times"
Guiding us to stay in relationship with the seasons,
Our sacred teachings, all things eternal
To remember from whom all blessings flow
Soon to chant for wind and rain
Our senses awaken with the smells of the earth
Falling leaves, sweet decay, the earth reclaiming
And feeding life, the changing light,
The quiet and the beauty at the core of our being
These are the seasons of our lives

Dwelling in gratitude during this season of harvest
May we rejoice in our capacity for wisdom, for
growth and change

For new beginnings
May we continue to bear witness to a majestic
power beyond our own
May we feel ourselves connected,
Held firmly by the Oneness in which we exist,
And with renewed understanding,
Endeavor to hold each other the same way.

With Blessings, Cantor Alisa



Help Keep CBI Safe

**We are looking for new
members to join 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 Breaux

November is another busy month.

• Blue Suede Jews November 5th.

- Election day November 8th.
- Deli Dinner and Movie fundraiser November 12th.
- Community Shabbat Dinner November 18th. It's the 3rd Friday this month because of Thanksgiving.

My project for November is to create the Building & Grounds committee. I had a couple of experiences last month to reinforce the need for improvements.

I attended the beautiful, inspiring, B'nai Mitzvot of Eli and Matt David. I heard that Alison David (mom) became a Bat Mitzvah in our sanctuary "on the same carpet". Just doing the math, that must be at least 25 years ago. I am pretty sure that carpet was not designed to last 25 years.

During the Yom Kippur discussions Beryl Levinger was leading in the double classroom, the room began to fill it and it became apparent that the wall separating the room needed to be opened. There was a desperate call for Rabbi Bruce because he is the **Only Person** who knows how to open the wall.

We need to start the process to get these items taken care of. We need a plan for all the improvements that need to be done so that we are doing things efficiently. This is not my area of expertise. I hope there are a few people in our congregation who have some experience that will be of benefit to this committee.

If you have some free time and have some expertise in this area, please let me know. We can't wait on this project.

Thank you all for the support.



Hesed Academy

The school year continues to be filled with learning and fun as our students split their time between their curriculum studies, Hebrew, time with a specialist, and time in

the sanctuary experiencing age appropriate Tefilah. Our youngest students are using the Teddy Bears as they learn about all the Jewish life cycle events. Our third and fourth graders are studying the Torah as they learn about the weekly Torah portions and values found throughout the Torah narrative. Fifth grades focus is on both biblical and the modern state of Israel. Our 6th and 7th grade students are beginning the year learning the lessons found in Pirke Avot (Ethics from our Ancestors) and the second half of the year's focus is on lessons from the Holocaust. With many students in grades 8-12 joining Cantor Alisa Fineman, we now have close to 50 students enrolled in Hesed Academy.

This month Cantor Fineman will be our music specialist, sharing extra songs with the students both November 6 and November 20. On November 13 the students will enjoy developing more Judaic art. Our goal is to help the students appreciate and enjoy Jewish culture as much as their other academic studies. No classes will be held on November 27 as we hope our families enjoy an elongated Thanksgiving celebration.

Sam Helfont, our Youth Activities Trustee, is working with the room parents and other parent volunteers to create active school parent groups. Contact Sam if you want to help create a Sunday morning walking group, or brunch group or (fill in your own idea) while the students are in class.

Also, in November we will celebrate our first class Shabbat of the year. On **Friday, November 4**, the 6th and 7th grade families will enjoy a potluck Shabbat dinner in our social hall at **6:15**. At our regular Shabbat services at 7:30 the students will assist in leading the service. On Sunday evening November 6, our Aleynu families will help host the IHELP dinner.

Hesed Academy is thriving. If you know of any families with children who might want to participate, encourage them to contact Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum. We will happily add another chair in our classrooms for new students.



Meet Charlotte Salomon

Greetings from your new Director of Member Development and Engagement! I will be reaching out to CBI's members for a wide-ranging, open, and goal-oriented dialogue on growing our

congregation and meeting the needs of our current members. And I hope that you will not hesitate to contact me directly: my cell number is 925-519-4477 and my email is charlotte@carmelbethisrael.org. I want each and every one of you to feel warmly welcomed at Congregation Beth Israel and personally inspired to grow and strengthen our Jewish community.

As CBI's newest employee, I would like to introduce myself. As the child of Holocaust survivors, I have always been passionately committed to my Judaism, to our collective Jewish history (with its many diverse threads), and to our ever-changing Jewish community. I grew up in La Grange, IL, a distinctly non-Jewish Chicago suburb. My two older brothers were doctors, and I was a lawyer (my parents were European immigrants and there were only two career paths in our house: be a doctor or, if you couldn't pass organic chemistry, be a lawyer).

In La Grange, we weren't just a Jewish family, we were THE Jewish family, an experience that I expect is not so dissimilar from living Jewishly in Monterey County. When I left for college at Harvard, I was so excited to attend a school that was over one-third Jewish. (Of course, my new friends from New York and New Jersey were equally excited to meet kids who were not Jewish...)

My parents retired to the Carmel Highlands in 1979 and were members of CBI from the start—my husband and I only moved here in 2020 but we have been coming to Carmel-and to CBI--for decades (in

fact, we were married at my parents' home in 1988 by one of CBI's former rabbis).

I have worked with the Jewish community for more than 40 years, starting with a paid internship with the Jewish Vocational Service of Chicago in 1977. I was a Wexner Heritage Foundation participant, completing a three-year course of intensive study on Jewish leadership, history, and tradition. I co-chaired the Jewish Federation of the Greater East Bay capital campaign in 1999-2000, raising over \$3 million to address communal needs, and, prior to that, I chaired the Federation's Business and Professional Women's Division for several years, always focused on Jewish community outreach and growth. I served as president of our shul in Pleasanton, Cong. Beth Emek, after chairing numerous synagogue committees, I am a life member of Hadassah, and I have been active in Israel advocacy for many years.

I retired in 2019 from my solo law practice, where I specialized in intellectual property transactions and general corporate matters. My husband, Scott Fetherston, is a retired semiconductor industry engineer and we have three grown children, Alexandra, Ellen, and Joe, and one fabulous 17-month-old granddaughter, Kaete, who is named for my mother.

So why take on a new Jewish communal position now, you may ask? In a small Jewish community like ours, I firmly believe that our synagogue is the core Jewish institution with the resources and core commitment to bring the local Jewish community together—in a time when Jews have essentially unlimited options to engage with a multitude of organizations and institutions, I want to ensure that CBI remains the first port of call. For me personally, we are still new to the area, still seeking friends and community, and still looking for ways to engage Jewishly now that we are empty-nesters—I am so looking forward to meeting many of you and working with all of you as we accomplish great things together.

B'Shalom, Charlotte Salomon



Lunch with Our Clergy

This month join Rabbi Greenbaum when he leads the discussion on **Wednesday, November 2 at noon** at Baja Cantina, located about a mile east of CBI. This month the discussion will focus on "Who

should we assist when we make our end of the year donations?" This is the time of year when everyone requests our support. Who do we give to and why? Do we know what percentage of our donations go to the actual cause? How much do different organizations spend on fund raising or other expenses that do not help those we are trying to assist? Are certain Jewish causes better to support than others? Come prepared to 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.



Adult Biblical Hebrew Class

Our adult Biblical Hebrew class continues this month as we delve deeper into the book of Genesis in Hebrew. Are you curious about what each word in the text really means? This month our 1-hour classes will be held on **Wednesdays, November 2, 9, 16 and 30, each starting at 4:00 PM.** While it would be helpful if you own your own copy of the Torah you can use one of CBI's copies during class. Call Rabbi Greenbaum if you have any questions concerning participating in this adult education class.

6th and 7th Grade Shabbat

On **Friday, November 4th** our 6th and 7th grade families will enjoy a potluck dinner in our CBI social hall starting at 6:15 PM. Then at 7:30 PM the students will join Rabbi Greenbaum and Cantor Fineman as they participate in our Family Shabbat services. AS the first Friday of the month, these services will include birthday blessings for all those with October and November birthdays. Moshe the Monkey will then help Rabbi Greenbaum share a story in place of a sermon. We look forward to the students and their families celebrating their Shabbat dinner, and everyone joining together in our Sanctuary for an uplifting Shabbat service.



Guest Adult Education Speaker: Yair Silverman

Join us on Sunday evening, **November 13 starting at 7:00 PM** for a special evening with Yair Silverman. A relative of Marvin Silverman, Yair will be traveling and speaking throughout Northern California and has agreed to join us for a special talk Sunday evening.

As an Israeli, Yair understands well the political challenges and recent elections held in Israel. He will share with us why Israel just had another election and what the results might mean for Israel. Join us for a stimulating presentation and discussion. Delicious desserts will be available for those who join us in person.



BEST YEARS Best Years at Pt Lobos!

Join Cantor Alisa for a nature walk at Pt. Lobos on **Thursday**

Nov. 17th, led by our very own naturalist and official Pt Lobos docent, Pauline Troia. Pt Lobos is considered a national treasure.

We will meet and carpool from the Starbucks parking lot at Rio Rd and Hwy.1, departing for Pt Lobos at 12:45pm. The nature walk is considered easy to moderate and lasts about an hour and 15 minutes. We will enjoy a frozen yogurt together at the Crossroads Shopping Ctr after our walk and reflect on all our sightings. Please call or email Abby in the office to make reservations. This event is limited to 10 people!

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Join Us For Community Shabbat Dinner!

Join us for 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, November 18**. Please note that this is the third Friday instead of the usual 4th, so as not to conflict with the Thanksgiving holiday.

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 at 7:30, if you wish to attend.

Call or email the CBI office for reservations to enjoy our lovely community Shabbat meal. \$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 three dates and book selections:

November 8, 1:30 PM, home of Suellen Rubin.
Book -- A CALLING FOR CHARLIE BARNES by Joshua Ferris

December 13, 1:30 PM, home of Karen Wiskoff. Book -- THE WORLD THAT WE KNEW by Alice Hoffman

January 10, 1:30 PM, home of Suellen Rubin.
Book -- PEOPLE LOVE DEAD JEWS by Dara Horn

Our warmest thank-you to Suellen for her generous hospitality in continuing to host Book Club.



Thank You to Our Oneg Hosts for the Month of October

October 7th – Friends and family of Matthew & Elijah David in honor of their B’nai Mitzvah

October 14th – Friends of Bari Tolliver in loving memory of Bari Tolliver


October 21st – Lorraine & Hugo Gerstl in loving memory of Lorraine’s parents Beryl & Esther Klompas.

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

November dates available: November 25th

December dates available: 9th, 16th, & 30th



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Meet Bee Epstein-Shepherd

In August of 1969, immediately after moving to the Monterey Peninsula, I looked up Synagogues in the phone book. Celia Leker answered the phone and told me that there is a Jewish Community on the Monterey Peninsula, but without a home; however, on Friday evenings the Jews “borrow” the Methodist Church on Soledad Avenue. Celia invited my family to her home where we met Lois and David Epel and their three daughters. The girls were about the same age as the Liker’s three boys, and my three children. We three families plus one or two others were CBI’s young Jewish families more than 50 years ago. The Epels and I are still friends and active members of Congregation Beth Israel.

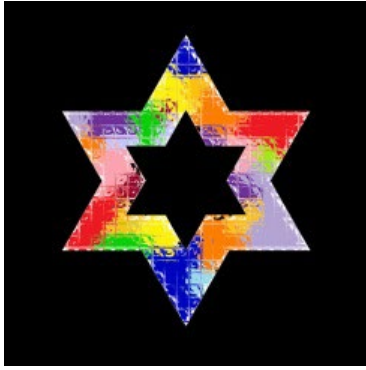
My commitment to the Jewish Community rises out of my background and perhaps justifiable paranoia concerning the future of Judaism. There is no point in my making comments about the current rise of anti-Semitism in the world. I was personally affected during the last round. I was born in Germany and was one of the few who made it to the U.S. My father was rounded up on Krystalnacht along with the other men

in our small Jewish community and sent to Dachau. At that time the Nazis were not killing Jews, they just wanted to get rid of us. Luckily, my mother had a generous great-uncle in the U.S. He offered to sponsor my mother, father, and me for entry into the U.S. My mother took proof of our visas to Dachau and was able to obtain my father’s release with the condition that he leave Germany immediately. Within a few days he was in London to help with its war efforts. My mother and I were able to leave Germany a few months later and joined other refugees in Redruth U.K. A year later we were able to board the ship to the U.S, then a train to San Francisco where I grew up. My grandparents and great-grandparents are among the six million.

As a result of being a survivor, I have always felt a responsibility to do something worthwhile with my life. I did perform the first mitzvah to “be fruitful and multiply.” I am the mother of Bettina Moss who lives in L.A. and is the mother of Jacob, Nicole Kelly who lives in Carmel and is the mother of Nicholas, Peyton and Keegan, and Seth, Epstein who lives in Montecito and is the father of Grayson, Weston, and Drake.

I consider CBI my second home. It has been my solace since being widowed in 1992. My closest friends over the years have been fellow members. We have shared an adult B’nai Mitzvah, Women’s Torah Study retreats, trips to Israel, Chavurah, volunteering for the Food Festival (I have a perfect 30 year record) the Film Festival, and other activities. I served on the Board of Trustees for more than 20 years. In 1996-1999, and 2009-2011, I held the position of president and held other positions when not president. I finally retired from the Board about 4-5 years ago, but I am still at Services most Friday evenings.

I can’t resist ending this glimpse into my life by telling you that I will be part of CBI forever. It will be my third home also. My CBI friendships have been so meaningful that when our cemetery was expanded, several of us picked out plots together—in the new section with a view. With gratitude for all of the wonderful people with whom I have shared worship and study, and those who continue to be part of my CBI family. Bee



Thank You from the Worship Committee Chair, Sylvia Krimsley

We look to the bimah and our eyes behold the beauty of our Jewish tradition. Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum, Cantor Alisa Fineman and Rabbi Jeff Schulman guide us through the days of awe. They provide music to our ears, contemplation and considerations for our minds, strength through our most challenging period, and renewal to our souls. The

choir and musicians fill us with joy. Our congregation contributes at every turn with their participation both on the bimah and throughout the sanctuary. How fortunate we are.

The worship committee is grateful for all of those who participate in making our High Holy Days experiences beautiful and whole. We would like to thank:

Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum for being our rock, our strength, and our moral compass;

Cantor Alisa Fineman for her exquisite voice and musicianship, tremendous spirit, and beautiful source of spirituality;

Rabbi Jeff Schulman for his gift of tapping into deep, mindful, internal awareness;

Pauline Troia and Kimball Hurd for their most excellent musical accompaniment;

Our High Holy Days choir composed of Diana Rosenthal, Laura Arnow, and Cara Lieb for their lovely voices;

Daniel Awerbuck for his stirring cello rendition of Kol Nidre;

Rabbi Jeff Schulman and Cantor Alisa Fineman for leading the presentations on Selichot;

Beryl Levinger and David Sabih for leading the discussions on Yom Kippur;

President Melina Breaux for her announcements and address;

Rich Gerber for his appeal to support Congregation Beth Israel and Israel;

The Torah chanters for their dedication to learning and chanting the High Holy Day trope;

This year's chanters were: Cara Lieb, Victor Krimsley, Susan Newton, Cantor Alisa Fineman, Marshal Blatt, Zia Shapiro, Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum, Rabbi Jeff Schulman, Lorraine Gerstl, Seth Pollack, Galena Bordetsky, David Awerbuck, Pauline Troia, Daniel Nussbaum, and Sylvia Krimsley.

The Haftarah readers and those who gave the Haftarah blessings;

This year's Haftarah readers and chanters were: Rosemary Lande, Rabbi Jeff Schulman, and Bee Epstein-Shepherd.

The Haftarah blessings were given by Jane Bednar, Rosemary Lande and Victor Krimsley.

Jonah Kelton and Sterling Yates for blowing the shofar;

Beryl Levinger for her presentation on Day 2 of Rosh Hashanah;

The honorees who held the Torah aloft, recited the Aliyot blessings, lit the candles, led the V'ahavta, and led the Kiddush;

Julie Chase, Abby King, and Bob Fenton for their supporting efforts.

Todah Rabah, thank you so much.



Following Up....

White supremacy advocates are organizing in ways that were inconceivable before our present Internet era. Social media—such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, STEAM, and Instagram as well as hundreds, if not tens of thousands of sites globally, are infused with messages of hate and violence.

One year ago (Nov. 6, 2021) CBI hosted an event, “Counterterrorism Research on White Supremacist Movements” in which Professor Jason Blazakis, who is the Director of MIIS’s Center on Terrorism, Extremism, and Counter-Terrorism (CTEC), described some of the white supremacist groups and their leaders in the US and abroad. For many of us, what he related concerning their language, funding, leadership, weaponry, and ideology were overwhelming in the extensiveness of their operations and their hateful, violent words and actions.

The Middlebury Institute recently announced that CETC received funding from Logically, “a tech company that uses artificial intelligence and human expertise to tackle misinformation and disinformation online.” CETC will create a major new social media database resource to better understand how extremists organize, form narratives, and advance disinformation in the radicalization process.”

This social media database on far-right movements “will provide for the first time a comprehensive look at the ways that far-right movements intentionally construct narratives for their own purposes.” Additionally, Professor Blazakis continues his work on the ongoing threat posed by such groups as the Oath Keepers and Proud Boys following the January 6th Insurrection at the US Capitol. You may like to read more about this [initiative by clicking on:](#) or

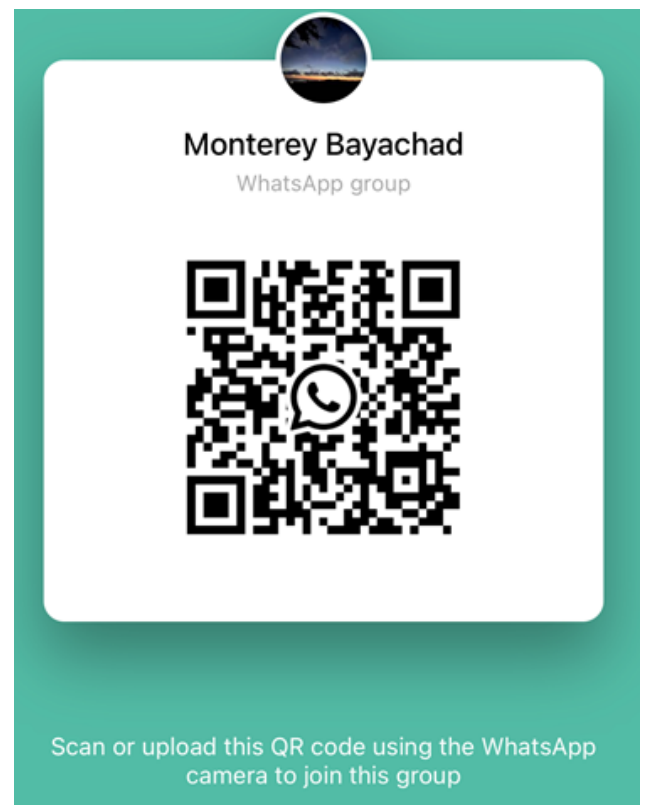
<https://www.middlebury.edu/institute/news/ctec-working-first-its-kind-social-media-database-far-right-movements>

I-HELP

The Social Action I-HELP team provided an Educational Resource Guide for the Hesed Academy teachers as well as a detailed guide for the parents that explain how the children may participate and learn about homelessness and our hosting of the I-HELP men and women. In October, the Social Action Team: Barry Rund, Hugo and Lorraine Gerstl, Charlene and Matthew Schuss, and I prepared a wonderful dinner—the Schuss’s meatloaf, salad, bread pudding (thanks to Malina Breaux), ice cream and cookies as well as the breakfast and lunch to bags.

This month, CBI will also host the Men on November 6th. As I write this, we are also hosting the women on Monday, October 31st, Halloween! The Lambourne Institute for Life Mastery is our partner with the women’s I-HELP hosting and will provide a festive “witchy” dinner!

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Raya Hoskinson	1
Leslie Pressman	1
Susan Alnes	2
Alison David	3
Jill Firestone	3
Ruth Lyons	3
Ilana Entin	4
Sebastian Ramirez	4
Marcus Togneri	4
Charles Franklin	5
Joel Weinstein	8
Leonard Chodosh	9
Ellen. Krause	9
Bennett Goldberg	10
Maya Felthoven	12
Laurie Kleinman	13
Jay Pack	13
Debra. Givner	14
Brynne Kaplan-Dau	14
Serena Pelc	17
Louise Riddell-Kaufman	17
Lyn Rosen	17
Charlotte Salomon	17
Eli Granbery	23
Taylor Togneri	23
Alex Bordetsky	27
Tilden Sun-Suslow	27
Stuart Pressman	28

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

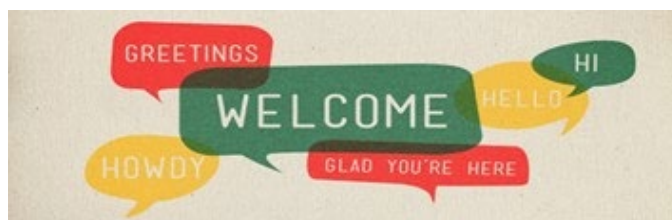
Michael & Jessica Croudo	8
Chad & Sara Hinds	9
Julie & Stuart Chase	12
Dan & Ellen Weiner	19
Bob & Sandra Kohn	23
Lee & Sheree Goldman	25
Michael & Susan Newton	27



Family News

We mourn the passing of Sam Ezekiel. May his memory 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

Erica Hershey & Steve Ross
Frederic Kropp
Elaine Lazarus
Patricia Poilé



Congregation Beth Israel
November 2022
Chesvan – Kislev 5783

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 	2 Noon Lunch with the Clergy at Baja Cantina 4:00 PM Adult Biblical Hebrew	3	4 6:15 PM 6 th & 7 th Grade Potluck Dinner 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service with Birthday Blessings Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum & Cantor Alisa Fine In person & on Zoom	5 10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study  7:30 PM Blue Suede Jews: Jews who Rock
6 9:30 AM Religious School 12:30 Aleynu 5:00 PM, I Help Men	7	8  Election Day 6:30 PM Executive Committee mtg	9 4:00 PM Adult Biblical Hebrew	10	11 Join us for Shabbat.  7:30 Erev Shabbat Cantor Alisa Fineman In person & on Zoom	12 10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study  6:00 PM Deli & a Movie Night at CBI
13 9:30 AM Religious School 7:00 PM Guest Speaker, Yair Silverman	14  14, National Pickle Day	15 7:00 PM Board of Trustees Mtg on Zoom	16 4:00 PM Adult Biblical Hebrew	17  12:45 PM Best Years at Pt Lobos	18  6:15 Shabbat Dinner 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum & Cantor Alisa Fineman In person & on Zoom	19 10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study
20 9:30 AM Religious School 12:30 Aleynu	21	22	23	24  Thanksgiving	25 7:30 Erev Shabbat Services with Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum In person & on Zoom	26 10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study
27	28	29	30 4:00 PM Adult Biblical Hebrew	December 1 	2 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service with Birthday Blessings Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum & Cantor Alisa Fineman In person & on Zoom	3 10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study

TODAH RABBAH!

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Torah Connections:

Vol. 174 November 2022, 5783

By Michael L. Waxer

Personal Reflections

Beginning the annual cycle of reading the Torah is an amazing time of year. First we complete the new year, Rosh Hashanah, and then the 10 day introspection and renewal period culminating with Yom Kippur. Now we are ready to start this annual journey once again.

According to our tradition, Moses wrote the Torah from God's own words. These instructions are supposed to help us, in every generation, they are timeless. This is why we have this custom to read the entire Torah each year. Fortunately, our Sages gave us tools to help us to read and understand the Torah.

PaRDeS is one tool, an acronym that gives us the ability to understand the text first at the literal, the ***Pshat***, level, but then also being able to understand the text at higher, more abstract levels. One secret is to notice verses that do *not* seem to make sense to us, today, at the literal, simple meaning. Since the Torah was intended to be useful to *every* generation, it makes sense that some verses may be 'non-sensical' at the literal level. If so, it almost begs one to read it at a higher level. Remember, the word **Israel** means, literally, to **wrestle with God**. Since the text was essentially written by God, isn't it incumbent on us to be true to our name?

As this new year begins, I want to share a personal reflection. One of the concepts I continue to struggle with is,

"See, I present before you today a blessing and a curse." (Deuteronomy [Devarim] 11:26), and

"I call to bear witness against you today the heavens and the earth: Life and death I have placed before you, the blessing and the curse; and you shall choose life, in order that you will live, you and your offspring." (30:19).

When we hit a bump in the road... an illness, an accident, a tragedy to ourselves or a loved one, or even a tragedy to a region not our own, it is normal to wonder.... Did I do something wrong?

Are we responsible? We each probably ask HaShem the same question... **WHY?**

Having recently experienced a significant health issue, I, too, ask the personal question... is this blessing or curse? We

often say that a person who recovers is 'blessed', but why did they have the calamity? Is one 'cursed' to suffer the event, then blessed to come out of it okay? Some of our Sages would say that it could all be blessing; God wants the person to refocus, perhaps to develop talents and manifest them in a different direction. Others may say that God is saying something in your life is flawed... not following the commandments, not caring about others enough, etc.

In my view, things happen in life... there are illnesses, accidents, natural events as well as human evil, all of which can create pain, suffering, and death. HaShem created us in these fragile bodies, yet breathed into us a ***neshamah***, a Godly soul. HaShem designed us to breathe, for example, perhaps as a way to encourage us to be good stewards of our environment. In other words, the weaknesses of our physical bodies are part of the design.

Consider the idea, that ***HaShem designed us to fall***, so that we could develop physical, and spiritual muscles, ***as we learn to pick ourselves back up***. This may be the higher-level understanding of the Adam and Eve story, which is in the first portion of the first book, as we restart our annual reading of the Torah.

Contrary to the literal reading, HaShem may have purposely put Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, with the obvious problematic restriction of not eating the fruit of two trees. ***God wanted these new humans to choose to fall, as the first step in developing the spiritual muscles needed for us to become more God-like.***

Similarly, as various events happen to each of us, to our loved ones, and to others we do not know, we may want to see these events as pathways that HaShem is sharing with us so that we can figure out how to pick ourselves back up, deal with the challenge, ***and somehow become stronger in that process***. Remember, the main point of our physical existence may very well be to develop our ***neshamah***, our soul, that part of us that can unite with HaShem.

By figuring out how to get back up, we fulfill what God wants from us, to develop spiritually. Then we can begin to achieve this Torah dictate:

"You shall be for Me holy, for holy am I, HaShem..."
(Leviticus [Vayikra] 20:26)

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.

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Chartered in 1954 as the Jewish Community of the Monterey Peninsula, Congregation Beth Israel today serves the spiritual, educational, and social needs of Jews on the Peninsula. We derive programming and administrative strength from our affiliation with the Union for Reform Judaism and offer traditional programming to meet the needs of most Jews on the Monterey Peninsula. The Congregation sponsors weekly worship services on Shabbat evening and Shabbat morning; observances of all holidays and festivals; and formal educational programs from toddler through adult. We operate our own school on weekend mornings and midweek afternoons, and we also maintain a Judaic library.

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Parshiot

November 5, Lech Lecha

T: Genesis 12:1-17:27

H: Isaiah 40:27-41:16

November 12, Vayera

T: Genesis 18:1-22:24

H: II Kings 4:1-37

November 19: Chaye Sarah

T: Genesis 23:1-25:18

H: I Kings 1:1-31

November 26, Toldot

T: Genesis 25:19-28:9

H: Malachi 1:1-2:7