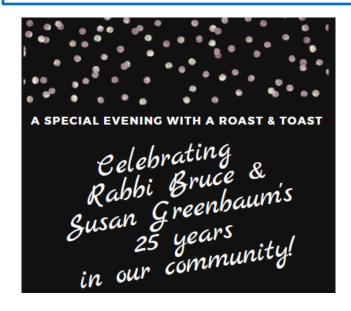
Congregation Beth Israel

Tevet- Shevat 5780 January 2020



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



Join us on January 25

We hope that you will join us for this special evening celebrating the Greenbaum's many contributions to our community.

The committee has been busy planning the menu, designing the décor, organizing the silent auction, and writing the roast and the toast. At Quail Lodge, the evening will begin with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a chance to see the delights of our silent auction followed by dinner and the funny and heartfelt program.

Tickets are available by calling the office and there is still time to add a memory, picture, or greeting to the Tribute Book. The deadline for tickets and tribute book entries is January 6.

See you at 6:00 PM on January 25!!



Carmel Jewish Film Festival 2020

CJFF 2020 is just around the corner. As we celebrate 10 years, we want to thank our loyal film-goers and supporters. Although it is only January, please commit to your sponsorships now so that we can stay on schedule for all our printed materials. Ticket sales only cover 20% of the festival's expenses, so your support is truly valued and appreciated.

The new brochure will be ready by February. Details about the films and speakers are now on the website www.carmeljff.org and on a flyer in this issue of the Shofar.

What else can you do to be supportive? We need people who will bake and/or donate food for the receptions. We need volunteers who will distribute brochures and posters to local hotels, visitor centers, and other various locations. Volunteers are needed for Will Call, to collect tickets, usher, and help at the receptions. Please contact Bee Epstein Shepherd if you would like to be involved. (drbeemm@aol.com)

Please pick up sponsorship flyers at CBI for your friends and for any of your contacts that may be interested in being a sponsor. Our film festival is an opportunity for businesses that *you* support to give back to our Jewish community and receive benefits and recognition at the festival.



From the Rabbi's Desk...

Many rabbinic stories are told concerning two people coming to a rabbi to complain about each other. The rabbi listens to the first share his story and then responds, "You are

right." The second then shares his perspective and again the rabbi responds, "you are also right." Another, over hearing this exchange turns to the rabbi and says, "Rabbi, you told this first fellow he was right. Then you told the second fellow he was also right. How can they both be right?" The rabbi pauses a moment, and then responds, "you are right as well."

Too often we look at things as either right or wrong, or black or white. We struggle to see the ambiguities found in most situations. Most things are not so obvious as to create only one possible response. This I would offer should be our response to the executive order President Trump signed last month (December 11) which codified the prohibition of the use of federal funds to support antisemitism on U.S. college campuses. In doing so, the president put all U.S. universities on notice that if they allow this type of hatred directed at pro-Israel students on campus, they jeopardize the billions of dollars in federal funds, our tax dollars, that they currently receive.

The Executive Order combatting antisemitism makes clear that Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in educational institutions also applies to anti-Semitic discrimination. This executive order extends protection from discrimination against Jews for ethnic, racial or national characteristics by applying the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism. This definition enables government agencies to determine when criticism of Israel crosses the line from free expression into discriminatory conduct.

What the president is trying to accomplish is praiseworthy. I certainly do not want Jewish students on our campuses to feel threatened when they voice support for Israel or self-identify as being Jewish. For too long our campuses have supported pro-

Palestinian demonstrations and threatened those who hinted at being pro-Israel. So what is the problem?

I am not sure we want to identify Jews under any of the categories protected by Title VI. Jews are not one race or color or of one nationality. I am an American who is also Jewish. My nationality is not Jewish. After having lived for centuries all around the globe, Jews have a variety of skin colors and nationalities. Can this executive order be understood to identify Jews born in the U.S. as non-Americans? Is my race now Jewish?

I appreciate the need to end antisemitism on our college campuses and applaud the president's attempt to do so. Using Title VI may not be the best way to reach this goal, especially coming from a president who has used anti-Semitic rhetoric in too many speeches.

Those who support this executive order are right. Those who challenge it are also correct. Together we must find ways to end antisemitism on all campuses and throughout our country. How best to do this is our ongoing struggle.



Welcome to 2020 5780-5781

Feb 9 - 10
Mar 9-10
Apr 8-15
Apr 20-21
Apr 27-28
Apr 28-29
May 11-12
May 28-29
Jul 29-30
Sep 12
Sep 18-20
Sep 27-28
Oct 2-9
Oct 9-10
Dec 10-18



From our President Cara Lieb, President Board of Trustees

Our Jewish Stories: The Schuss Family - Matthew, Charlene and Elinor

Matthew's parents, Albert and Sylvia, wanted children from the day they were wed and, after 25 years of marriage, were finally blessed with a son. Three years later, Matthew was joined by a sister, Elinor. The Schuss family were congregants of Temple *Ner Tamid*, a Conservative Jewish congregation. Matthew attended religious school three times weekly and, in 1969, Matthew became a Bar Mitzvah. Tragically, later that year Elinor was killed in a car accident that also permanently disabled Sylvia. This tragedy caused the family to question their faith and they fell away from their congregation and from Judaism.

At 16, Matthew toured Israel for three months with a Jewish youth group. The experience had a powerful impact on him. In fact, upon his return Matthew joined the synagogue where his friends from the trip belonged, became very involved and served as the youth group president.

After high school, Matthew went away to college at Sonoma State University. In college, his focus on Judaism waned and Matthew started to explore other spiritual options. While spirituality was always important, he was not practicing Judaism and didn't attend services; he did maintain a connection, however. After graduating with a Bachelor's degree, the next many years were spent moving and working around California.

A professional dream brought Matthew to Monterey in 1984. Ultimately that plan didn't last but the power and beauty of the area did; this would be Matthew's final relocation. Six years later in the Leadership Monterey Peninsula program (class of 1990) Matthew would meet is future wife, Charlene Webber. The relationship started when Matthew arrived late at a "Decade of Leadership" event in Spanish Bay where, amidst a sea of 700+ attendees, there was one empty seat next to Charlene.

Charlene was raised in Vallejo, California in a home where religion was not part of her upbringing. Her family celebrated secular holidays. While growing up, Charlene went to "Sunday School" with many friends and was exposed to several Christian religions.

Charlene attended the University of San Francisco. In 1984 she graduated with a degree in Nursing and immediately moved to Monterey and began a career as an RN at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. In 1990 she participated in Leadership Monterey Peninsula where she

met Matthew who introduced her to the Jewish religion. Her first Jewish service was at CBI during a High Holiday service. Uncomfortable due to her lack of exposure and the Hebrew language, Charlene began studying Judaism. The rich history, traditions and mitzvoth resonated deeply and were the pillars she needed to launch her adult, married life. The CBI community was welcoming and it began to feel like home.

In 1993 Matthew and Charlene were married under a *chupa* in Monterey; Rabbi Jerry Levin officiated a Jewish ceremony. The newlyweds wanted to create a Jewish home and integrate the spiritual richness into their family so they immediately joined Congregation Beth Israel. Charlene also decided to adopt Judaism as her religion. After studying with Rabbi Mendel at CBI, she formally converted just before their daughter, Elinor, was born. Over the years, Charlene continued to study at CBI and she became a Bat Mitzvah along with her Adult Education classmates in 2005.

Elinor (Elie) was born at CHOMP in 1993 and grew up at CBI. She became a Bat Mitzvah in 2006 after which she served as a *madracha* in religious school for multiple years, spent a couple summers at Camp Newman as well as participated in numerous CBI events (including as the Jewish Food Festival bride, a rite of passage for CBI girls). In 2016 Elie travelled to Israel with Birthright where she truly enjoyed very special Jewish and Israeli experiences.

Elie graduated from Sonoma State University with a Bachelor's degree in Biology. Returning home, she was then accepted in the Maureen Church Coburn School of Nursing at Monterey Peninsula College where she completed her studies and became a Registered Nurse. Elie now works as an RN at CHOMP.

Over the years at CBI, Matthew taught religious school for ten years, managed the I-HELP meals monthly for another ten years, was the Social Action Trustee for two years and continues to be actively involved in numerous events and social action activities. He also is very active volunteering for numerous non-profit organizations. Charlene has held two CBI Board positions, Youth Activities Trustee and Social Action Trustee. After 35 years with CHOMP, she recently retired as the Chief Information Officer. Her time is now spent as a nurse volunteer at RotaCare in Seaside, a non-profit free medical clinic and also volunteers at several other local non-profits.

Charlene and Matthew are looking forward to their first trip to Israel this spring as well as many more years actively involved with CBI.



Scholar-in-Residence Weekend January 10-12



We are excited to welcome to our congregation Rabbi Linda Motzkin and Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein, who together will lead us in a Sabbath of "Bread and Torah." Classmates of

Rabbi Greenbaum, they met and married while in Rabbinic Seminary at HUC and together they have created a wonderful learning opportunity they share with communities around the world. Wonderful teachers who love to share their knowledge and expertise, this will be an enriching weekend for all who participate. You can learn more about their teaching in their website www.BreadandTorah.org.

On Friday afternoon, **January 10** Rabbi Rubenstein will lead a challah baking program from 1:30 – 4:00. Each participant will take a Challah home with them and the group will prepare the challot we will use over the Sabbath. At 6:30 PM we enjoy a Sabbath dinner with our visiting scholars before our 7:30 Shabbat service. Both guest rabbis will share a short lesson in place of the regular sermon.

Saturday morning they will lead the study session in lieu of our regular Torah study from 10:30-12:00. Saturday evening we will gather at 7:00 for some delicious desserts, a short Havdalah service, and a session with Rabbi Motzkin as she shares slides and insights on making a physical Torah scroll. Then we will have a chance to stretch an animal hide and help make parchment for a Torah scroll, participating in the 613th (last) mitzvah of the Torah!

Sunday morning both Rabbi Rubenstein and Rabbi Motzkin will teach challah baking and Torah making with our religious school. It will be an exciting day of hands-on learning for our children enrolled in our Sunday school program.

Because of the Ted Orliss Scholar-in-Residence fund, CBI is able to welcome scholars like Rabbis Motzkin and Rubenstein to our community. This will be an uplifting weekend for all those who participate. Please share this information with your neighbors and friends. It's not often when we get to bake delicious challah with a Rabbi/Baker or fulfill the mitzvah of making a Torah scroll with a Rabbi/Scribe.



Adult B'nai Mitzvah Classes Continue

While we have already held 4 of our Adult B'nai Mitzvah classes

you can still join Rabbi Greenbaum for this wonderful education experience. We will only meet three times in January from 7:15-9:00; on Thursday, Jan. 2, Jan. 16, and Jan. 30. These classes focus on Living Judaism, Jewish Worship, Hebrew reading, and the weekly Torah portions.

This class is open to CBI members who wish to become Adult Bar or Bat Mitzvah and those who wish to learn more about our rich Jewish heritage. Whether or not one led a Bar or Bat Mitzvah service as a child, this class will stimulate and educate. Participants who continue the course into the summer have an opportunity to assist in leading a Shabbat service and read from the Torah. Call Rabbi Greenbaum if you have questions about participating. It is never too late to start learning.



Lunch with the Rabbi

Join Rabbi Greenbaum this month on **Thursday, January 2** at noon at Baja Cantina located about a mile east of CBI when he will lead a discussion on "dealing with the holiday blues." With Chanukah (and Christmas) season just

ending, many struggled with or are still experiencing different levels of depression. We might observe or question, "Why is everyone around me so happy and I am feeling lousy during this festive time?" Let's discuss different ways to avoid those holiday blues and move forward feeling more uplifted. How can we bring happiness to our Holy Days and every day? Lunch costs only \$20. Please call the CBI office at 624-2015 to RSVP.



CBI Book Club

February 11, 1:30 PM, home of Suellen Rubin (<u>suellenrubin@hotmail.com</u>). Book: THE ORPHAN'S TALE by Pam Jenoff

March 10, 1:30 PM, home of Laela Leavy (laelaleavy@me.com). Book: THE GERMAN GIRL - A NOVEL by Armando Lucas Correa



BEST YEARS

Lunch Out!

Join us on **Thursday, January 16** at noon as we enjoy what is clearly

one of the most popular Best Years events, enjoying lunch at a local restaurant. This month let's dine on Chinese Food. We will meet at China Delight located in the Crossroads or call the synagogue to car pool with the rabbi. This free lunch, paid by the CBI Senior Endowment Fund, is always a delicious meal. Please bring ideas for future Best Years events. Do you have a suggestion for a movie or speaker or event? Enjoy visiting with other members and feast on delicious Chinese/American foods. Drinks are included as well! To RSVP for this program call the CBI office at 624-2015. Please let us know if you need a ride for this event.



Caring Committee: Your Fellow Congregants Need You.

The Caring Committee serves a vital function at Congregation Beth Israel by supporting fellow congregants when they are in need because of illness or bereavement. We provide

meals, rides to follow-up medical appointments, visits, and compassion when our members are

temporarily unable to care for themselves. I personally am grateful for the generous help I got after my recent hip surgery.

We now must add to the list of volunteers since some of our volunteers have moved out of the area. Volunteering is easy. Generally, it just consists of providing a meal or a ride to the doctor or grocery store or picking up a prescription. Now and then the Caring committee helps with a funeral or Shiva.

You can be added to our volunteer list by contacting me, 625-3188, or DrBeeMM@me.com, or the office. Volunteering and doing is a Mitzvah. It is not often you can feel as good and derive as much personal satisfaction as when you offer support to someone in need. Thank you in advance, Bee Epstein-Shepherd.



Abraham's Tent

Abraham's Tent, the soup kitchen that is being run through the efforts of Jews, Christians and Muslims United, shares a meal with those in need every Thursday evening. Volunteers from each faith community are needed every week to help prepare the food, set up and

clean up the room, and welcome our guests. Volunteers can now sign up to work either 3:00 to 4:30 or 4:30-6:00, or the whole time. Also there are two spaces for volunteers to help the chef in the early time slot from 1:00-3:00. To volunteer please use the link found on the CBI web page or on the weekly eblast you receive from our CBI office. The sign-up link will tell you where Bethel Baptist Church is located in Seaside where the meal is served. All those over 14 are encouraged to volunteer. Our hungry guests will certainly thank you for your support.



Join the Community Trip to Israel!

Rabbi Bruce and Susan Greenbaum are leading another community trip to Israel next October! Save October 17-27 (and an extension to the Galilee until October 30, 2020) on your calendar for this exciting adventure. Each day will be filled with amazing sites, breathtaking views, and sacred moments. We will stay in four star hotels, eat delicious meals, and celebrate our time in Israel. From swimming in the Dead Sea and touring Masada to walking along the walls of Jerusalem and visiting the Kotel (Western Wall), each day will be meaningful. Details of our time in Tel Aviv, the Negev, and Jerusalem are all listed in an itinerary the Rabbi has created with ARZA World Travel. Ask the rabbi for an itinerary or a flyer. You can also find information about the trip and registration on line at arzaworld.com. Just type in Greenbaum in the search box and you will be directed to the community trip. You can also call the ARZA World travel for details and to register for the trip at 888-811-2812. Or call the rabbi for any questions about this trip of a life time. Some of those going might even do an additional add-Don't miss this fabulous on to Petra, Jordan! opportunity.



Community Shabbat Dinners -Join us on Friday, January 10 & 31

This month we will have 2 Shabbat

dinners, one to celebrate with our Scholars-in Residence and our usual end-of-month gathering. Join with us at 6:30 on January 10 and on January 31. Both Shabbat dinners will be prepared by Malina Breaux and her entourage of assistants. Savor a sense of community and food worthy of celebration. Join us as we offer blessings for the bread and wine and sing traditional music to begin our gatherings.

Evening services follow at 7:30. Call the CBI office for reservations. Members \$13.00, non-members \$20, Children \$5



Thank You to Our Oneg Hosts

We are grateful to the following people who helped to make the December & January Onegs a beautiful experience:

December 6: Students & Families of the 4th grade.

December 13: Ellyn Gelson.

December 20: Bee Epstein Shepherd – In loving memory of her mother Milly.

December 27: Chanukah potluck provided by last names N-S.! Happy Chanukah

January 3: Malina Breaux

January 10: This date still available, please contact the CBI office if you wish to host.

January 17: This date still available, please contact the CBI office if you wish to host.

January 24: This date still available, please contact the CBI office if you wish to host.

January 31: Friends & Family of Richard Platt - in honor of Richard's conversion.

If you have not hosted an Oneg recently or have never hosted an Oneg, please help us fill our Oneg dates for the months of January and February.

Keeping this tradition alive is a simple yet meaningful way to honor someone you love or celebrate a special life cycle event.





Need a Ride To CBI Events?

We are partnering with GoGo to provide rides for

our members to CBI events. With gratitude to our Senior Activities Fund we are able to cover the cost of rides from your home and back to attend services. Best Years events, Lunch with the Rabbi, volunteer assignments, and any other CBI sponsored event.

After registering for the program, you will be able to order rides by phone – no smartphone or tech skills required. If you are interested in trying this service please call our administrator, Julie Chase, at 831-624-2015.

Cemetery Gan Hazikaron

(Garden of Remembrance)

How many people know that CBI owns a section of Mission Memorial Cemetery overlooking the Monterey Bay? Because of ongoing interest in Monterey Peninsula's only Jewish cemetery we have decided to include an FAQ (Frequently Asked Question) column in this month's Shofar. Hopefully, we have answered all of your questions here, but if we missed any, please contact Julie or Rabbi Greenbaum in our office with your inquiries.

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

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

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

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

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



PLANET GREEN RECYCLE

RAISE FUNDS BY RECYCLING INK CARTRIDGES AND SMALL ELECTRONICS

Planet Green Recycle will help CBI raise funds by recycling and buying recycled products. If you have any of the eligible items listed below you can drop them off at CBI and we will collect them and ship them off for cash. This is a terrific opportunity to support CBI while also demonstrating one of our core values, to make a positive impact on the environment.

You can also purchase refurbished printer ink and get a free shipping label to send off your own devices at www.planetgreenrecycle/cbi.

Support Our Cause

Congregation Beth Israel

Recycle Small Electronics, Cell Phones, & Inkjet Cartridges!



Do you have the famous "drawer" with old and unwanted electronics and cell phones? Planet Green will remanufacture or recycle them and pay us for the value!

What to recycle:

- Inkjet Cartridges
- · Cell Phones
- GPS Units
- iPods/MP3 Players Digital/Video Cameras
- · iPads/Tablets
- eBook Readers
- Video Game Consoles/Handhelds Video Games & Accessories
- Calculators

Drop off:

CBI - 5716 Carmel Valley Road

Or print a free shipping label:

www.planetgreenrecycle.com/cbi





2020 Hindsight & New Sights!

As we begin this new decade, we have opportunities to reflect upon the directions of our own lives as well as the many issues that our community, our nation and the world face. How does each of us effectuate change? The adage "Think Globally, Act Locally" comes to mind. Our Congregation includes many individuals who are committed to address economic inequities, racism, homelessness, affordable housing, environmental sustainability, and other issues that motivate us to go beyond the comforts of our lives towards creating positive outcomes for others.

Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism/RAC-CA:

The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism will hold its regional meeting in San Francisco, Sunday, January 12th, 10am-2pm. The RAC-CA Regional Gatherings are a time for clergy and lay leaders to come together, build connections, learn from each other, and reflect on what we have learned from our work so far. The Regional Gathering is a great way to energize and motivate the congregation's social justice team! Are you interested in attending this significant meeting? If so, please contact me! We'll form a lively carpool (or 2)!

Hosting I-HELP Men & Women in December & January:



The program now averages 19 men and 12 women per night; half the men—10 of them—are now employed! 3 men and 4 women found housing in November.

The December 1st meal was sponsored by the 7th grade religious school class, where Charlene Schuss led a discussion on the mitzvoth of sheltering the homeless, feeding the hungry and welcoming the stranger. The students created prayer cards with messages of hope, care and community. As the men

read the messages silently, you could see their faces calm and smiles appear. Each guest received a gift bag of socks, hats, flashlights and snacks. Thank you, Matthew, Charlene, Riddle, 7th grade religious students & their parents for the warmth, food and gifts that you provided.

On December 30th, we hosted the Women's I-HELP with gift bags of socks (thank you Cara), hats, gloves, small flashlights and snacks. Thank you to the Gerstls for the lovely piano music by Hugo and to Lorraine for yummy desserts. Once again, thanks to the Lambourne Institute for Life Mastery, for sponsoring the dinner, contributions to the gift bags, and the circle of care in which we each expressed our hopes and dreams for the New Year.

Here's how you can participate in Social Action Activities in January: Look for more information in our weekly CBI Newsletter:

- Sunday, January 5th: Men's I-HELP. Kindergarten & First Grade Religious School classes are hosting. We need help in setting up and serving. Please contact Arlene arlenekrebs123@gmail.com
- Sunday, January 12th: Religious Action Council, San Franciso
- Monday, January 20th: Martin Luther King, Jr.
 Memorial March in Seaside.
- Thursdays, January 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30th- 3-6pm:
 Volunteer with Jews, Christians, Muslims
 United to feed the homeless in Seaside. Use the link found on the CBI web page to sign up.

CBI's Social Action Team! You can learn more and become involved by joining our Social Action Team! We can share responsibilities, create an "action plan" of events and activities, divvy up responsibilities for the I-HELP for Men & Women and do so much more that matches our interests and availability. Please contact me!

I hope that you can participate in our January activities, and join our CBI Social Action Team!

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



Save this date! Many of our members have secret talents that they will be sharing with us **Saturday**

evening February 28, at 7:00 PM. This will be a delightful evening of singing, instruments and more! Find out who has real talent! This is an evening to visit with other CBI members, enjoy some delicious foods after the show, and have fun. Now is the time to add your name to the performance list. Tag Bob Fenton,(lawbobman@aol.com or 818.645.3972) if you want to sneak onto the pulpit turned into a stage for CBI's own version of "Who's Got Talent?" The evening will be filled with smiles and laughter, toe tapping and clapping.

Volunteer for the Carmel Jewish

Film Festival











Contact Bee Epstein-Shepherd drbeemm@aol.com 831-625-3188 (Sorry, no texts)

Congratulations!



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Jewish Food Festival

HONORED BY OUR DISCRIMINATING READERS AS THE MONTEREY PENIMSULA'S

Best
Church-Sponsored Event
2019

Paul Miller, Publisha www.carmelpinecone.com



Cantorial Restricted Fund

Mitchel & Deborah Winick in memory of Gregory Fineman

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Barry R. Harrow Kenneth & Shelley <u>Kroopf</u> in memory of Edith Kroopf

Steven J. & Ann B. Packer in Gratitude for Wedding Officiation

Carmel Jewish Film Festival

Dr. David Awerbuck & Dr. Astrid Holberg
Paul Best
Monica Browning
Honest Engine Films
Arts Council of Monterey County
Ellyn Gelson
Lester Tockerman in honor of Susan Greenbaum

General Donations Barry & Randi Brookstein

Ellyn Gelson in honor of December birthdays and anniversaries
Nick & Aline Harris in memory of Harry Kite
Nick & Aline Harris in memory of Olga Kite
Keziah Nduro
Dennis M. Niekro & Paul L. Richmond
Cele Passin in memory of Robert Passin
Stephen L. & Wendie A. Ryter in memory of
William Gold and Myron Ryter
Matthew Schuss & Charlene Webber-Schuss
Peter Serchuk
Martin & Karen Wiskoff in honor of Vic &
Sylvia Krimsley's 50th Anniversary

Wall of Remembrance

Marshal & Angelica Blatt in memory of Norman Blatt, MD

PJ Library

Hornik Family Foundation

Religious School Fundraising

Rabbi Bruce & Susan Greenbaum for the Giving Tree

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

the synagogue? See page 16 for the full story.

Have you seen this beautiful textile art around



Congregation Beth Israel January 2020 Tevet ~ Shevat 5780

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		HAPPY NEW YEAR	1 January 2020 Happy New Year CBI Offices Closed No Hebrew School	12:00 PM Lunch with Rabbi LUNCH WITH THE RABBI 7:15 Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services with special Birthday Blessings	4 9:00 AM Morning Shabbat Service 10:45 AM Shabbat Torah Study
5 9:30 AM Religious School All Grades 5:00 PM I Help – Hosted by the K/1st Grade students & families	6	7	4:00 PM B'nai Mitzvah 4:30 PM Hebrew School 5:00 PM Investment Committee meets 6:00 PM Aleynu	9	Scholar in Residence Scholar in Residence Weekend w/ Rabbi's Motzkin & Rubenstein 1:30 PM Challah baking 6:30 Shabbat Dinner 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services	11 S.I.R. 10:30 AM Study 10:30 AM Mazel Tots – PJ Library storytime S.I.R. 7:00 PM Dessert & Havdalah Service Rabbi Motzin shares how to stretch animal hide to make parchment for a Torah Scroll
12 9:30 AM Religious School All Grades S.I.R teach Challah baking and Torah making to our students— 12:00 Katanim Mitzvah Day Committee Meeting	13	14	4:00 PM B'nai Mitzvah 4:30 PM Hebrew School	12:00 Best Years Lunch out at China Delight 7:15 Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	17 Shabbat Shalow! 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services	18 10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study
19 No Religious School Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 11:00 AM MLK Jr. Parade – Seaside Meet at Social Services on Broadway	21 6:30 PM Executive Committee	4:00 PM B'nai Mitzvah 4:30 PM Hebrew School 6:00 PM Aleynu	23	7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services	25 9:30 Religious School 7th Grade Only 10:30 AM Shabbat Service &Torah Study 6:00 Roast & Toast Celebrating Rabbi & Susan Greenbaum
26 9:30 AM Religious School Grades K/6 th 9:30 PM My Munchkin & Me – Tu B'Shevat	27	28 7:15 PM Board of Trustees meets	29 4:00 PM B'nai Mitzvah 4:30 PM Hebrew School	30 7:15 PM Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	6:30 PM Community Shabbat Dinner 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services with special Anniversary Blessings	1 February 9:00 AM Shabbat Morning Service 10:45 AM Shabbat Study



SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2020 CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

6:30 PM / Opening Night Reception
7:30 PM / Film, Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles
Q&A, PERFORMANCE / Alexandra Silber,
"Tzeitl" in 2015 Broadway cast of Fiddler

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2020 CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

2 PM / Reception
3 PM / Film, Violins of Hope:
Strings of the Holocaust
4:15 PM / Q&A and history and musical presentation on the Violins of Hope by violinist Cookie Segelstein

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020 LIGHTHOUSE CINEMAS, PACIFIC GROVE

7 PM / Film: The Keeper

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020 CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL, CARMEL

7 PM / Film, 93 Queen
TALK BACK / Rabbi Dovid Holtzberg and
Mrs. Binie Holtzberg

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2020 MIIS-MONTEREY, IRVINE AUDITORIUM

6:30 PM / Reception 7:30 PM / Film, *Budapest Noir* Q&A / Director Éva Gardós

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2020 MIIS-MONTEREY, IRVINE AUDITORIUM

3 PM / Film, The Accountant of Auschwitz PANEL DISCUSSION, Q&A / Rev. Elaine Gehrmann, Father Jerry Maher, Rabbi Jeff Schulman Wine and Food Reception

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020 LIGHTHOUSE CINEMAS, PACIFIC GROVE

7 PM / Film, Tel Aviv on Fire

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020 CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL, CARMEL

7 PM / A Night of Shorts Q&A / Director Michael Horowitz, Tzeva Adom (Color Red)

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2020 CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL, CARMEL

7 PM / Film, Shoelaces 8:30 PM / Wine and Dessert Reception

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020 CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL. CARMEL

5:30 PM / Closing Night Wine and Middle Eastern Food Reception 6:45 PM / Film, *Abe* TALK BACK / Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum; Abdel Seck, President, Islamic Society of Monterey County

TICKETS TO FILMS AND RECEPTIONS / www.carmeliff.org / 1-800-838-3006

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^{*}Opening & Closing Night reception tickets are equivalent to two regular reception tickets

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

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30

HÄPPY ÄNNIVERSÄRY

Aaron & Maureen Rosenblatt	2
Donald & Marcia Pompan	8
Leonard & Sheri Chodosh	20
Norman & Diana B. Jacobson	29

We're always looking for family news. Let us know what is going on with you and your family.



Celebrate Shabbat by honoring a loved one or a special occasion with a leaf on our Tree of kife Each leaf is \$180 - Contact the CBI office for details

Richard Harrit

Save -the-Date Roast & Toast

Rabbi Bruce & Susan Greenbaum Celebrating 25 years in Our Community!

> January 25, 2020 Quail Lodge & Golf Club Dinner, Silent Auction

Ways to participate:

- Consider a contribution to the Tribute Book
 Full Page \$450
 Half Page \$275
 Quarter Page \$150
 One-Eighth Page \$100
 One Line/Name \$36
- Donate an item or idea to the Silent Auction
 - Join the Event Committee
 - Make a Donation to CBI
- And, of course, attend this great event and bring friends

From Cantor Alisa Fineman

CBI is very fortunate to showcase the beautiful silk art of Catherine Stern of Richmond, CA. These six pieces are on generous loan to us for a brief time. Catherine majored in art at San Francisco State University with an emphasis in textile art. She began experimenting with dyes on silk as a student. Her work has been exhibited in California and Maine, in the group show of Emerging Jewish Artists at the Osher Marin JCC, and most recently, at the Palo Alto JCC, among other venues.

The inspiration for this group of work came from a flyer posted in a window for a lecture on Ancient Glass of the Holy Land. Catherine says, "I set myself the challenge of capturing the feeling of the glass in silk. I chose the Song of Songs as the subject and created silk 'tiles' with images from Islamic tile designs that related to the words in the poem. There are gazelles, birds, flowers, and the words are in Hebrew. Although I



don't speak the language, I am aware that the letters themselves are powerful and evocative, each a world unto itself. I've collected stories, each of which is an invitation to learn. Those stories lead me to research, to dream and ultimately to begin the dance of making and remaking, of letting the piece tell me what it needs and wants to be until it feels like it has become."

We are grateful to Catherine for loaning us her work which adds luminous beauty to our spaces here at CBI. They can be viewed presently both in our foyer and in the sanctuary.

For more about Catherine Stern and her creations and Judaic teachings, please visit: https://catherinesternart.com.

CBI Religious School

CBI Youth Calendar for January 2020

Our Youth Calendar for the entire year is now in a Google Calendar Format.

View and download it through our website: CarmelBethIsrael.org/Learning

Date	Special Events and Activities		
Wed.	No Hebrew School		
Jan. 1	No Hebrew School		
	Religious School for all grades		
Sun.	(9:30 - 12:00)		
Jan. 5	No Specialist		
	IHELP - hosted by K/1st grade		
Wad	B'nai Mitzvah Class (4:00) &		
Wed.	Hebrew School (4:30)- 6:00		
Jan. 8	<u>Aleynu</u> 6:00 - 8:00		
Sat.	Mazel Tots - PJ Library Storytime		
Jan. 11	(10:30 - 12:00)		
	Religious School for all grades		
	(9:30 - 12:00)		
Sun.	Scholar- In-Residence -		
Jan. 12	Bread & Torah		
	Mitzvah Day Committee Meeting		
	Katanim Event - Game Day		
Wed.	B'nai Mitzvah Class (4:00) &		
Jan. 15	Hebrew School (4:30)- 6:00		
Sun.	No Religious School - Martin Luther		
Jan. 19	King Jr. Wknd		
Wed.	B'nai Mitzvah Class (4:00) &		
Jan. 22	Hebrew School (4:30)- 6:00		
Jan. 22	Aleynu 6:00 - 8:00		
Sat.	Shabbat Study - 7th grade only		
Jan. 25	(9:30 - 12:30)		
	Religious School for grades K - 6		
Sun.	only (9:30 - 12:00)		
Jan. 26	Specialist - Cooking Challah		
Jan. 20	My Munchkin & Me - Tu B'Shevat		
	(9:30 - 11:00)		
Wed.	B'nai Mitzvah Class (4:00) &		
Jan. 29	Hebrew School (4:30)- 6:00		



PJ Library Storytime January 11, 10:30 - 12:00

Children ages 2 1/2 - 5, with a parent, are invited to enjoy a PJ Library story with a connected craft with Early Childhood Educator, Chinanit Kershner. Parents - make new friends yourself when you bring your child to this special program.

Pre- registration is very helpful for the purchasing of materials. The fee is \$20 with preregistration for the remaining 5 events this year, \$5 for a single event with preregistration, or \$10 at the door.

For more information or to preregister, email directorlouise@aol.com.



A PJ Library Program

Thank you to the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the Hornik Family Foundation

for subsidizing this program.



Who: Parallel program for parents (of babies through school age children)

& Babies through Preschoolers

When: Sunday, January 26, 9:30 - 11:00 & one Sunday a month throughout the school year

What: <u>Parenting discussion</u> group based on concerns of the group, especially around holidays. This month's topic: Tu B'Shevat

<u>Preschool group</u> with PJ Library story and playtime with Liz Heff and singing with Cantor Alisa Fineman.

Yummy snacks/ breakfast provided for adults and children. (continued on page 18) (continued from page 17)

The group will be planning some events outside the CBI building during the year.

How Much: \$20 for the remaining sessions during the school year includes adult and children's snacks. Drop-in participation is \$5 per session with preregistration or \$10 at the door.

Come meet new friends or re-connect with familiar faces as you discuss parenting issues.

Thank you to the Harold Grinspoon Foundation for underwriting this program.



Have you noticed the CBI Giving Tree in the lobby?

Have you noticed the new CBI Giving Tree in the lobby? Our

synagogue is a wonderful community, and we are fortunate to be able to offer such an engaging educational programs for our youth. But these programs are not self-supporting. That's where you come in- Please help us cover expenses by sponsoring snacks, faculty, textbooks or other supplies. You can donate enough for one week, one month, or the whole school year. No matter what you can afford to give, all contributions are needed and appreciated. What to do: 1) Take a leaf with the program to which you would like to contribute (they are color coded by range of gift) 2) Call or walk into the office to make a pledge OR go on the temple website and click DONATE and please note "Giving Tree" in the description field. Thank you for helping to make a difference in our Congregation Beth Israel family!



January Jewish Family Ideas

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is observed on January 20th this year. Martin Luther

King embodied many Jewish values including Tikkun Olam - Working to make the world a better place. In 1963 Martin Luther King Jr. gave his monumental "I Have a Dream" speech. It was one of the defining moments of the civil rights movement. Sometimes a dream is a hope, a vision, a goal.

- Discuss as a family: What are your goals for yourself? What will it take for you to actualize that goal? What hurdles will you need to get over?
- Gevurah: Heroism. Who is a hero? Gevurah is about having strength, inner strength, to stand up for what you believe, even when it's really hard.
- As a family, make a list of your heroes. What qualities to those people have? What lessons can you learn from your heroes?
- What's the difference between a hero and a superhero?
- Talk about ordinary people that you read about or see on TV who became heroes.
- As a family make a list of Jewish heroes. Is Queen Esther on your list?
- ♦ Book Suggestions:
- The Legend of Freedom Hill by Linda Jacobs Altman. In Gold Rush times two friends, one an African American, the other Jewish, work together to earn the money to free the mother of one of the girls from a slave trader. A lively narrative and powerful images bring this heartwarming story of love, bravery, and friendship to life, and offer readers a little-known slice of California cultural and ethnic history. Ages 6 − 10.
- Nachshon, Who was Afraid to Swim by Deborah Bodin Cohen. As the Israelites rush to leave Egypt after being freed from slavery, young Nachshon is the first to brave the water that must be crossed, even though he is afraid to take the plunge. Inspired by Moses (Real freedom means believing in yourself), Nachshon discovers that redemption means being free from slavery and free from his fears. Ages 4 8.
- Who was Martin Luther King, Jr.? by Bonnie Bader.
 Ages 9 12. With clearly written text that explains this tumultuous time in history and 80 black-and-white illustrations, this book celebrates the vision and the legacy of a remarkable man. Ages 9 12.

Note: Most of the above book suggestions are also PJ Library selections. To sign your children, ages 6 months – 8 years, up for a FREE Jewish book of the month club go to: PJLibrary.org. Children ages 9 - 11 are now eligible to choose their own chapter book monthly for free through PJ Our Way. Go to: pjourway.org

KATANIM!

Who: 2nd-4th Graders

What: Board Game Party!

(Please bring board

games that you want to

play)





Time: 12 - 1:30 p.m.

Where: CBI

When: Sunday, Jan. 12

How much: \$5

Please RSVP including food allergies to Rachael Carroll: rachaelscarroll@gmail.com



2nd Trimester of Aleynu! New Participants Welcome!

New Participants Welcomel NOW is the time to join the conversation Make connections & Share your strengths

AP Kindness - Mussar for Teens Part 2

With Bari Tolliver

Focus on the characteristics of gratitude, honor and loving kindness, as you explore becoming the best person you can be.

Paint a Mural With Paul Richmond Express yourselves as a group around the concept of RESPECT as you create a mural that will be installed on the playground fence.



Remaining 2nd Trimester Dates: January 8 & 22, February 5 6:00 - 8:00, BYO dinner

To Register: CarmelBethIsrael.org/ Learning



Torah Connections: Vol. 140

December 2019, 5780 - Michael Waxer

Does the Heart shape the Deed, or does the Deed shape the Heart?

Perhaps you have given this question some consideration....

If you have not given this thought, this philosophical question can actually give you tremendous insight toward how you lead your life, how you raise your children, how you see the world!

It may sound simplistic: Do you decide what is the right thing to do based on satisfying a feeling of wanting to do something good? Or, do you decide to do something good because you know it is the right thing to do, even though your 'heart' may not be fully into it.

One of the classic examples is the well-known Jewish mitzvah of donating 10% of one's earnings to charitable causes. People have asked, what if you don't feel like being that charitable one year? Is it better to not give, and follow your feelings, or is it better to still give the 10% and to ignore your heart?

Well, the classic Jewish answer is that you need to give the 10%, and how you feel about it is secondary. In fact, the Jewish answer to this question is that 'the deed shapes the heart'. The idea is that by continually doing the required thing (the mitzvah), eventually your heart will come around. If you don't 'feel like it', well, so what?

Some folks have characterized this question as one of the key philosophical distinctions between Judaism and Christianity. Some describe Christian theology as saying that if one is not imbued with the spirit of giving, then the act of giving, itself, is meaningless. The Jewish position is just the opposite: You must give, and your 'feelings' about the subject are not the critical factor. In this example, it is saying that the mitzvah of tzedakah (charity) is important in this world.

Of course, we are describing two endpoints, and most people are probably somewhere in between. But it is worth considering your personal life philosophy on this, as well as how you transmit values to your children and other loved ones. This personal decision can strengthen one to make the better decision, on a daily basis. One can pursue the right thing because it is the right thing, and not because we feel the spirit of doing a good thing.

In the Torah, the 5th commandment says,

"Honor your father and your mother..." [Exodus 20:12 and Deuteronomy 5:16] Even this critical commandment is **not** feeling based, but rather, duty based.

An analogy might be how most folks approach starting an exercise routine. It is something you know is important for your health and well-being, but you don't really want to take the time or effort. Your hope might be that as you force yourself to take the walk, or go to the gym, that pretty soon your emotions would get excited about how your body is feeling better, and that your committed actions will soon bring your feelings into alignment.

Alternatively, if you wait for you heart to be filled with the desire to go to the gym, you might never get there. Your mind, your center of reason, is typically the way you force yourself to adopt a good habit. It is interesting to note that the biblical word for 'heart', *lev*, is actually closest to our modern English word for 'mind', since it refers to a person's essence, that part of ourselves that is the place we reason and make decisions.

Please consider adopting this 'Jewish' philosophy as your personal guide, that <u>doing good (deeds) will strengthen your feelings for the better.</u> Now, go out and do good, mitzvahs galore!

This Torah Connection article is the sole expression of the author and specifically does NOT necessarily reflect those of the Board of Trustees of CBI, CBI, its membership, Reform Judaism, or Judaism. Some ideas herein are inspired by Dennis Prager. If you have any comments regarding 'Torah Connections' e-mail a note to: mlwaxer@sbcglobal.net.



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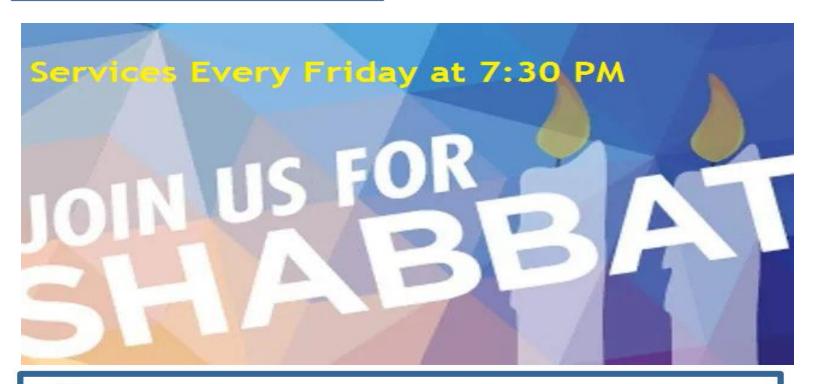
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Chartered in 1954 as the Jewish Community of the Monterey Peninsula, Congregation Beth Israel today serves the spiritual, educational, and social needs of Jews on the Peninsula. We derive programming and administrative strength from our affiliation 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.

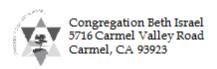
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Parshiot

January 4, Vayigash T: Genesis 44:18-47:27

H: Ezekiel 37:15-28

January 11, Vayechi

T: Genesis 47:28-50:26

H: I Kings 2:1-12

January 18, Shemot

T: Exodus 1:1-6:1

H: Isaiah 27:6-28:13

January 25, Va'era

T: Exodus 6:2-9:35

H: Jeremiah 46:13-28