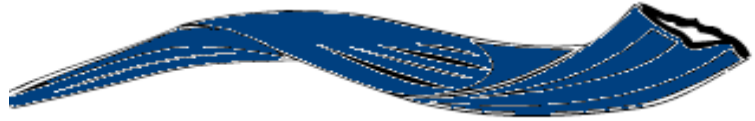


SHOFAR



Monthly Newsletter of the Monterey Peninsula Jewish Community

www.carmelbethisrael.org



It's Film Festival Month!

We hope to see you at one of the many films, receptions, and programs. Thank you to all the sponsors, granting organizations, and partners who have supported the Carmel Jewish Film Festival. A complete list can be found on the website. Last month's Shofar focused on the films *with* programs during the first half of the festival. There are other films without programs, and those should not be ignored. Trailers, synopses, biographies and other details are on our website: www.carmeljff.org



Gerhmann, and Father Jerry Maher. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join you for this important film and the issues it raises.

Sunday, March 15, 3 pm film followed by panel and reception at MIIS. The film, *The Accountant of Auschwitz*, is guaranteed to stimulate an interesting discussion and Q & A with **Rabbi Jeff Schulman, Reverend Elaine**

Thursday, March 19, 7 pm Shorts Night at CBI followed by a discussion with filmmakers **Tiffany Shlain, Ken Goldberg, and Michael Horwitz.** Our own



Justine Geisler has worked hard to put together what promises to be a memorable evening. Our guests are SO MUCH MORE than filmmakers. Be sure and read their biographies on the website. Parents of young children and teens are especially encouraged to attend. Tiffany and Ken will be discussing and selling their book, *24/6: The Power of Unplugging* and how it changed their lives.



Sunday, March 22, 5:30 pm Closing Night reception, **6:45 pm** film *Abe* followed by Talkback with **Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum** and **Abdel Seck**, past President of the

Islamic Society of Monterey County. The discussion will focus on challenges facing interfaith families.

Several events are already sold out. Sponsors will receive priority on the waiting list. We highly recommend that you reserve your free events (if you are a sponsor) or purchase your tickets on the website as soon as possible. Thank you again for your confidence, enthusiasm, and support of the CJFF.



From the Rabbi's Desk...

Before you receive this shofar you probably have already learned that both Cantor Alisa Fineman and Educator Louise Riddell-Kaufman are stepping away from their roles as leaders in our congregation. While this change will certainly challenge our CBI community, after all both have served our congregation over 20 years each, life is full of transformations. I view each change as an opportunity for growth and development.

I want to begin by wishing both Alisa and Louise much luck in all their future endeavors. I know that Louise will now be free to spend more time with her parents on the East coast and with her new grandson in Colorado. Now that both Louise and Riddle will be retired, they will have the freedom to travel more and enjoy additional family time. I know that Cantor Alisa plans on supporting another colleague who is struggling and needs Alisa's talents in another synagogue community.

Luckily we are not really saying goodbye to either of them. Both Alisa and Louise will continue to live in their current residences and will have the opportunity to remain in contact with our congregation. Louise has already spoken with me about maintaining their CBI membership, and has discussed how both she and Riddle might become involved in other activities with CBI. Alisa hopes to join us periodically on special occasions as well.

When I was first informed about both their decisions (it happened the same week) I have to admit being a little overwhelmed. Approximately 23 years ago I met Alisa when she first served as a soloist at a Bar Mitzvah here at CBI. Over the next few years Alisa became our go to person whenever we had a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. That quickly evolved into Alisa joining me on the pulpit leading at least a couple of our Sabbath evening services each month. She became the Cantorial Soloist of CBI and eventually became our B'nai Mitzvah teacher, our Sunday school music specialist, and my co-clergy for the High Holidays. As you know, eventually Alisa decided to go through the Cantorial studies program at HUC-JIR and was ordained as a Cantor in May two years, ago. Today, along with her other responsibilities, Alisa is my

partner on the pulpit most Friday evenings and often fills in for me when I am out of town.

When I first arrived to CBI over 25 years ago, Louise was serving as a teacher in our religious school. My 'baby' Tani was in her pre-school kindergarten class. Just a few years after I began at CBI, Louise accepted the role as our Religious Education Director. She always had a strong love of children and an interest in her Jewish identity. As the years have passed, Louise learned more and more about formally working as a Jewish educator. She expanded her Jewish learning. Eventually Louise enrolled in the education program at HUC-JIR where she earned her Master's Degree in Jewish Education. Louise is always developing her Jewish knowledge and strengthening her education skills.

Knowing that this change will be a challenge for our congregation, our executive board has already started forming a search committee and begun the process of determining who will help lead our music and education programs at CBI. I am confident that together we will find the right people who will partner with me in leading our congregation in the years ahead. We have been blessed with Cantor Alisa's and Educator Louise's presence for over two decades. I am certain that we will find new leaders who will inspire and educate us as we look towards our future. May their presence, like Alisa and Louise's, bless us as we move from strength to strength. Amen.



Vote ARZA in the World Zionist Congress Elections By March 11

I already voted and I hope you will too. If enough liberal Jews vote in this election, once again we will assure that the liberal religious community receives both economic support and justice within Israel. It costs \$7.50 to register and vote (\$5.00 for those under 25). You must be Jewish and over 18 to vote. Make sure you vote for the ARZA ticket that supports Reform Judaism in Israel today. Each Jewish adult in your household can vote. Please do so! Call Rabbi Greenbaum if you need assistance with the voting process. You can even come to CBI and vote using his office computer if you need additional help or do not have a computer at home. Just follow the link below.

<https://www.zionistelection.org/election/2a3b7a80-ba00-42ec-957e-c0375167a065>



From our President *Cara Lieb, President Board of Trustees*

Our Jewish Stories: Bobby Ehrenpreis

This month we get to know Bobbie Ehrenpreis. After her engaging toast of Susan Greenbaum at the recent tribute dinner for the Greenbaums, I was delighted and intrigued, and wanted to get to know her better. When I asked her for her Jewish story, this is what she told me:

Bobbie was born Barbara Elinsky in Hartford, Connecticut into a neighborhood of Jewish immigrants. Many spoke only Yiddish (although the older generation wanted the children to speak English so they would be “American”). They lived a traditional Eastern European Jewish life – in old world Orthodox shul right next door where women sat upstairs at shul. The family kept kosher (4 sets of plates – milk and meat for every day and milk and meat for Pesach). She describes it as a big, loud, East Coast Jewish family with lots of shifting factions and several crazy characters. The cultural part of Judaism was everything—Shabbos, holidays, family. But her Jewish/Hebrew education was mostly rote, and she doesn’t remember being provided with a translation of the Hebrew she was reciting. The result was that she had no intellectual connection to the traditions – though she had a spiritual connection. At about age 16 she began questioning and seeking for something more meaningful. So, she went into what she calls her “yoga phase,” practicing yoga and many forms of meditation. Interestingly, a very high percentage of the East Coast yoga practitioners/seekers were young Jews from the same background! Also around this time, she had to give up her pursuits of playing the piano and tennis in order to go to work to help support the family and have money for college.

She went to college at Boston University majoring in English literature and moved around New England for a bit. There she met David, her husband, and they eventually ended up in Santa Rosa, California with her “yoga/Jewish” buddies. They had the best, huge, Passover meals – piles of food and music and dancing. “I’m a groupie. I love to be in groups. I guess it’s because I come from a big family.” She and her friends started investing in real estate. As an English major – every house and family is a story – and this led to her career in real estate.

They eventually ended up in Carmel. It took about a year after arriving before she even looked into CBI. It came about like this: She went to a service and everybody was so informally dressed and there was a young lady singing on a guitar in front. Shocking! At first, for her, this was hard to relate to. Meanwhile, Bobbie started to play tennis again,

and she found herself playing tennis with Susan Greenbaum. Susan started inviting her to various events at CBI, and it’s difficult to say no to Susan, as many of us know! Bobbie felt welcomed at these events and began to feel comfortable in the community. Then, she injured her knee, so no more tennis for awhile. She took up swimming until her knee healed, and who should be swimming in the lane next to her but Penny Bard, prior CBI president, who invited her to join a Torah study group. There was no escape! She and David, who also felt at home at CBI, just began hanging out more. “It felt like our family,” is how she puts it.

Bobbie and David had a daughter Aimee after moving here in 1988. Although her daughter had no formal Jewish upbringing (too much time spent at Carmel Ballet Academy and theater), Bobbie did enjoy reading Jewish stories to her and celebrated many of the Jewish holidays in a “creative” way. When they went to a cousin’s home for Passover, her daughter (then 6 or 7) surprised everyone (Bobbie especially) by telling the Passover story in great detail and with great enthusiasm. This seemed like it might be a sign.

Two year ago, Bobbie went to Israel on a trip organized by the Greenbaums. She doesn’t like to travel, but Susan asked, so she went. There, she had “an event.” “I knew I believed in God. I knew I was Jewish. But it never all came together. When I went to The Wall, I touched it and I have no idea what happened. I saw a burst of light coming out of the ground through The Wall and it slammed me in the heart—a painless punch to the chest. There were no thoughts and I think I cried for hours. I was home with my people”

After this profound experience, Bobbie has thrown herself into studying Hebrew and learning more about Israel through online courses. She attends the religious offerings at CBI now. In a way, she has come full circle with biblical Hebrew. Although she loves learning the meaning of what we pray and sing, she often enjoys just reciting the Hebrew without dissecting the meaning of each word, letting the ancient sounds wash over her. She thinks being at CBI, as a CBI groupie was meant for her along – she just had to find it.



Todah Rabbah-Thank You

On January 25, just two weeks ago (as I write this), our congregation honored Susan and me for our 25 years of service to Congregation Beth Israel and our community. The committee headed by Malina Breaux, but too many to list all by name, did an outstanding job. The silent auction and the fabulous decorations and the tribute book and the roast and toast program were all tremendously well done. All the kind words and fun jesting were so meaningful. Each speaker's sharing touched our hearts. Thank you to all who participated for your warmth, your ongoing support of Susan and me and our congregation. With sincere blessings of appreciation,

Rabbi Bruce and Susan Greenbaum



Purim Celebration March 8 and March 11!

Throughout Jewish history, anti-Semitism has threatened to wipe out our existence. Each time, our ancestors have somehow managed to survive. Join us as we celebrate Jewish victory over anti-Semitism this Purim.

On **Sunday, March 8** we will invite members of Temple Beth El to join us for our Purim carnival celebration in our social hall. Their students will join our religious school at 9:30 at the start of our religious school morning. We will all then enjoy our Purim Carnival from 10:30-12:00. Volunteers will be needed at CBI from 9:30-10:30 for set up; 10:15-12:00 to run the carnival booths and serve lunch; and people to stay to help clean up. Call Louise Riddell-Kaufman or the CBI office to volunteer.

On Wednesday evening, **March 11** we will gather together at 5:45 for our 'Sound of Purim' Shpiel. Join Captain Ahasuerus, Esther-Maria, Herr Haman, and Uncle Mordecai along with a large cast of Children as they sing and dance their way through our Megillah story. "How do you solve a problem like Ahasuerus?" Together we will boo Haman and cheer for Mordechai. We will enjoy cheese pizza and hamantashen after the play. Donations for the pizza will be accepted! If possible bring desserts to share at the oneg following the shpiel. Participants are encouraged to come in costume for both the carnival and the Shpiel.



CBI Book Club

March 10, 1:30 PM, home of Karen Wiskoff (wiskoff@aol.com). Book: THE GERMAN GIRLS - A NOVEL by Armando Lucas Correa

April 14, 1:30 PM, home of Laela Leavy (laelaleavy@me.com). Book: THE LOST LETTER by Jillian Cantor.

May 12, 1:30 PM, location to be determined. Book: THE MATHEMATICIAN'S SHIVA by Stuart Rojstaczer



Lunch with the Rabbi

Join Rabbi Greenbaum this month on **Thursday, March 5 at noon** at Baja Cantina located about a mile east of CBI when he will lead a discussion titled "Antisemitism in America Today." On Purim we celebrate victory over antisemitism. Are the threats in the Scroll of Esther similar to the threats we face in the U.S. today? Is antisemitism getting worse? What do the statistics suggest? How is antisemitism in 2020 different from antisemitism that was experienced in the U.S. before and during WWII? Do we need better security at CBI? What should we do? Come prepared to discuss, question and debate these issues. Lunch costs only \$20. Call the CBI office at 624-2015 to RSVP.

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





BEST YEARS

Best Years Lunch Gathering

It's been a while since our Best Years group has enjoyed lunch at Baja Cantina. Join us on **Thursday, March 19 at noon** for a delicious lunch, drinks included! From wonderful Mexican meals to tasty burgers or salads, Baja has a meal you will enjoy. If time allows we might just brainstorm together as we plan future Best Year events. To RSVP for this lunch, call the CBI office at 624-2015. Remember, **this event is free**. Please let us know if you need a ride to this event. We now have a special ride program with go-go grandparent.



Rosh Chodesh/New Moon Ritual and Study with Rabbi Leah Novick

and Cantor Alisa Fineman

Our agricultural ancestors were once very attuned to the cycles of the moon and the seasons. The Jewish nation is often compared to the moon. Throughout history our light has waxed and waned. But even in utter darkness, it has never been extinguished. This is one of the reasons why, when the new moon appears for the first time in the night sky, we celebrate. It marks opportunities for forgiveness and new beginnings.

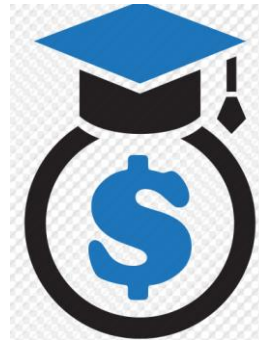
Come Celebrate Rosh Chodesh Adar at CBI with Rabbi Leah and Cantor Alisa on **Wednesday, March 25th from 7-8:15PM**. Rabbi Leah will share some history and background of this monthly observance and lead guided meditations while Alisa leads us in song and blessings for the New Moon and month of Adar.



Join the Community Trip to Israel!

Rabbi Bruce and Susan Greenbaum will lead another interfaith community trip to Israel **October 17-27, 2020** with an optional three day extension to the Galilee and Golan Heights. Each day will be filled with amazing sites, breathtaking views, and sacred moments. They stay in four star hotels, eat delicious meals, and travel in a private bus with an Israeli tour guide.

From swimming in the Dead Sea and touring Masada to walking along the walls of Jerusalem and visiting the Western Wall, each day will be meaningful. Explore Tel Aviv, the Negev, Jerusalem and the West Bank City of Ramallah. Meet with Israeli leaders and a Palestinian journalist. Visit sites where our biblical ancestors walked. For a detailed itinerary of each day's activities contact Rabbi Greenbaum at 831-624-2015 or at rabbibruce@aol.com. Some of those traveling might even include an additional add-on to Petra, Jordan! Don't miss this fabulous opportunity.



COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Attention All High School Seniors and Parents of Seniors!

If you are interested in applying for a CBI Merit College Scholarship, now is the time to get started. Applications are available in your high school

career center, at the CBI office, or on the CBI website. Be sure to read the criteria for selection carefully. The deadline for completed applications is **Wednesday, April 15 2020, 4:00 p.m.**, to be returned to the CBI office, Attn. Judy Masliyah, Chair, College Scholarship.

The College Fund has been established for worthy Jewish students on the Monterey Peninsula who are being admitted to a four-year college. Awards are made in May and are presented at the student's high school awards ceremony and are recognized at the

Senior Shabbat. We honor students who consistently show outstanding academic work, leadership, community dedication and values of Jewish life with a financial reward and community recognition.

We have awarded 90 scholarships since 1993 when we first started this worthwhile endeavor. The committee is grateful to the wonderful contributors who have helped establish and have sustained this fund since its inception. Now, as the deadline arrives,

we hope you will consider supporting this beneficial cause with your generous

donation. These funds go directly to the students and your contribution is tax deductible.

Thank you.

Judy Masliyah, Chair, 831-649-3326



From Cantor Alisa Fineman

Dear Friends,

It is with mixed emotion that I share with you the need to take a leave of absence from CBI at the end of my contractual year, beginning July 1st, 2020. This process began when I learned that my colleague Rabbi Paula Marcus, at Temple Beth El in Aptos, is facing a medical crisis with her husband who has been diagnosed with a serious illness. She and her associate, Rabbi Shifra Weiss, originally reached out to me regarding my immediate part-time availability to help cover Rabbi Paula's absence. Then, because of the nature of the illness, they began exploring the idea of hiring a full-time cantor for one year.

This development has only risen in recent weeks. I had not been seeking a cantorial position elsewhere. Along with the desire to support my colleague and friend, it also matters that Temple Beth El offered me a substantial salary increase. That translates into more financial security and peace of mind in planning my future.

Again, I wish to emphasize that my intention is to take a temporary leave of absence. I understand that the CBI Board may not be able to guarantee my re-employment. Similarly, I may not be able to guarantee my return if Temple Beth El wishes to extend the position and my stay. However uncertain the future, I feel it is important for me to explore what has come my way at this time.

After 23 years of serving CBI, I feel that I am a part of the fabric of this community and I cherish the many connections I have made with all of you and your families. That makes this decision very difficult for me. The appreciation, love, kindness, and support I've received from our congregation through the years is beyond measure. It has sustained and nourished me, and I thank you all with all my heart.

I wish you all sweet blessings and I have faith that our congregation will continue forward in the best of hands under the leadership of Rabbi Greenbaum and our CBI Board, as I hope for your understanding,

With great affection,

Cantor Alisa Fineman



Join Us For Community Shabbat Dinners in March



On **Friday, March 13 at 6:00 PM** there will be a Children's Music Service followed by dinner at **6:45 PM** where we'll honor the Kolinsky Family for all they have contributed to our congregation. We gather to wish them well as they leave our community. We'll have a scrapbook so please bring any pictures or thoughts you would like to share. Evening services follow at **7:45PM**

Join with us on **March 27 at 6:30 PM** for our regular month-end dinner. 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



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



Thank You to Our Oneg Hosts

We are grateful to the following people who helped to make the February & March Oneg's a beautiful experience:

February 7: Students and Families of the 2nd/3rd grade classes.

February 14: Ken & Debbie Baseman.

March 6: This date still available, call the CBI office to host.

March 13: Families and students participating in our Youth Shabbat.

March 20: CBI In honor of the 10 Annual Carmel Jewish Film Festival.

March 27: This date still available, call the CBI office to host.

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 March and April.

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



Rizal Sidney Baguio to Become a Bar Mitzvah



Rizal Sidney Baguio was born in San Francisco. After attending Robert Down Elementary School, he is currently a 7th grade Honor Student and Student of the Month at Pacific Grove Middle School. Rizal

enjoys a variety of interests, including playing the clarinet, bass clarinet and baritone saxophone as well as playing basketball for the Breakers (his junior high school team.) He has competed in various math and R.O.V. (underwater robotics) competitions along with soccer and baseball. Rizal loves the outdoors, particularly hiking and cycling. He is an amazing big brother to Richie, 9 years old.

For his Mitzvah project, Rizal volunteered at a local after school care program. He joyfully assisted the children with their homework and assignments, as well as organized sports drills and games to share his basketball skills.

Rizal is excited to share this special rite of passage ceremony with his family and friends who will travel near and far to celebrate with him on **April 4**.

CBI at L'Taken





Social Action @ CBI

May Is Mitzvah Month!

Following years of successful Mitzvah Days, we are scheduling Sunday, May 3rd this year as our Mitzvah Day and we will also be organizing various activities during the month of May! We hope to involve as many members of the Congregation as possible. We'd love to see adults, teens and the Religious School children participate in meaningful activities and events, by learning about and taking actions to address some of our current challenges.

Sunday, May 3rd: We will have various stations set up at CBI:

- The Food Bank with paper bags to fill. Please bring foods to share (no glass containers) and place these in the large containers.
- Post Card writing table. Our students have chosen to donate this year's tzedakah collection towards alleviating two areas where humans are hurting the earth - the fires in the Amazon and marine debris. Thanks to Matthew Schuss, we have an up-to-date contact list of local and national representatives and thanks to Louise Riddell-Kaufman and Robin Pelc, we'll have sample messages. Since May is Mitzvah Month, we'll leave the writing table in the Social Hall to encourage You! to write postcards whenever you are in the building. So do participate and write that card! Contact: Louise <louiserk0@gmail.com> or <robin.pelc@gmail.com>
- Rice plus Project –We'll have two ways to pack rice and beans this year. Teens and Adults are encouraged to join Rice plus Project's Bagging Party at the Vista Lobos Community Center (Torres and 2nd Ave.) in Carmel, 10am-11:00am. We can meet at 9:30am at CBI to carpool there. Join RpP's volunteers for a "speed packing" event! Refreshments served. The younger children will pack rice and beans in our Social Hall. Contact: <arlenekrebs123@gmail.com>

- Men's I-HELP Dinner, Sunday May 3rd. Malina Breaux will be spearheading the cooking with the children for this month's dinner. We'll also need help to set the table and serve our guests. To cook, Contact: <malinab@carmelbethisrael.org>
- You Will Rise - Anti-Bullying art work, led by Paul Richmond. Art materials will be on hand. Contact: <paulrichmondstudio@gmail.com>

More information to Follow. Save Sunday May 3rd to participate! Join with our children and teens, become a "role model" for Social Action! And stay tuned for more ways to participate.

I-HELP Updates & a FUN-Raiser Event:

Mark Your Calendars: Tuesday, March 31st, California Pizza Kitchen at Del Monte Center will donate 20% of your check to I-HELP! Open from 11:00 am to 9:00 pm, this is a great fundraiser, which includes dine in, take out, catering and all beverages. I-HELP Board members will be at the restaurant at various times during the day and evening to greet folks. Be sure to mention I-HELP to your server!

The Super Bowl Tailgate Party was a huge success thanks to Matthew and Charlene Schuss, Riddle and Susan Schwartz. I-HELP leaders are impressed by our annual commitment to this uplifting event. Mindy Western organized the dinner with our Religious School's 5th & 6th grade students and parents. Both the Women's and Men's I-HELP groups are going well, with about 15 women per evening. Some of the men have found jobs, and some permanent housing.

Help Wanted! The next Men's I-HELP Dinner is March 1st --please send an email to Matthew Schuss to volunteer <montereymatt3@comcast.net> The Women's Dinner is March 30th --please send an email to Arlene Krebs arlenekrebs123@gmail.com or Susan Schwartz schwartzs@redshift.com

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





THANK YOU!!

UJC Donations

Michael & Irene Krasner
David Sabih & Anna Swartley

Cantorial Restricted

Michael & Debora Waxer in honor of Nina Laub

Eitan Biblarz Campership Fund

Lester Tockerman in honor of the Carmel Jewish Film Festival

Religious School Scholarship Fund

Lester Tockerman

Carmel Jewish Film Festival Sponsor

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General Donations

Barry & Randi Brookstein in memory of Jack Martin
Hanover
Maureen Chodosh in memory of Fanny Chodosh and
Norman Chodosh
Ellyn Gelson in honor of February birthdays & anniversaries
Thomas & Ellen G. Krause in memory of Ellen's mother
Rose Ruja
Kenneth & Shelley Kroopf in memory of Richard Ziegler
Israel Pren in memory of Joseph Pren and Gutman Fridman
Channaorah Meir in loving memory of her father, Arnold
Miller



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.

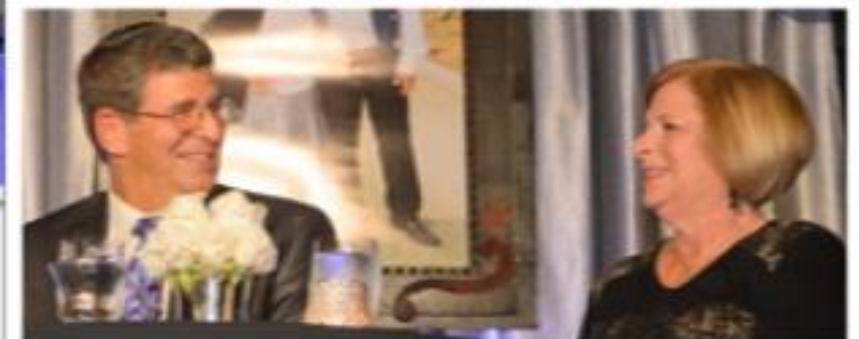
After registering for the program, you will be able to order rides by phone – no smartphone or tech skills required. If you are interested in trying this service please call our administrator, Julie Chase, at 831-624-2015.

*Roast & Toast
Celebrating Rabbi Bruce & Susan Greenbaum
January 25, 2020*





**Thank you for a
wonderful evening!!**





**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 / Michael Bernardi,
Broadway and film actor

**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,
Filmmaker Tiffany Shlain

**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.carmeljff.org / 1-800-838-3006

Become a CJFF SPONSOR by calling 831-624-2015 or 800-838-3006
or by visiting the www.carmeljff.org

	Benefactor	Event Underwriter	Film Underwriter	Producer	Movie Buff	Reception Sponsor
SPONSOR BENEFITS 2020	\$2500 +	\$1000 +	\$500 +	\$300 +	\$150 +	\$85 +
Film Tickets	20	16	8	4	2	2
*Reception Tickets	18	12	8	6	4	
**Logo with Link on Website Home Page	♦	♦				
**Logo with Link on Website Event, Sponsor and Visit Us pages	♦	♦	♦			
**Logo on Official Poster and Brochure	♦					
2 Tickets to Private Post-Event Cocktail Reception on March 8th	♦	♦				
Recognition on Lobby Poster	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	
Recognition in Festival Program	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	
Recognition on Pre-film Screen Presentation	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
Recognition on Website Sponsor Page	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	
Reserved Seats	♦					
Reserved Seating Section	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	
CJFF Tote Bag	♦	♦	♦	♦		
Business Card size ad in Temple Bulletin for one year	♦					

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

****Business Sponsors and Granting Organizations only**

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.

Passover Foods



Join the CBI Writers' Group!

The CBI writers group is a happy gathering of folks who enjoy the exchange of stories. We get pleasure from reading to each other our creative tales. Some of these are family stories, some have Jewish themes, and some are pure whimsy. Typical stories are one to two pages, perhaps 500 to 1,000 words, but we sometimes read sections from longer projects. We get to have friendly conversations about our writings. Please feel free to join us. You can join us even if you are just starting to write!

Here's a timely piece by Gary Simon:

Passover Foods

Passover is the time when Jews avoid the consumption of leavened foods, called chametz. The most obvious leavened product is bread, but also cakes, cookies, pasta, rice, are also counted as chametz.

I remember the routines done in the Orthodox home in which I grew up. For Passover, we've got to get the chametz out of sight, out of mind, and out of the kitchen. In fact, we've even got to get the chametz out those parts of the homes in which we don't eat.

It's impractical to throw away large quantities of expensive food, as for example, the economy package with 24 pounds of pasta. These may be moved out of the home, and there are several formalized arrangements for doing this. We still need to remove those bits of chametz which have fallen into hidden places in the home.

I recall the formal search procedure. With a lighted candle, a feather duster, and a wooden spoon, every part of the house is searched. Search under beds, cabinets, appliances. Look under couch cushions. Gather up any chametz that is found, place it in a safe spot outdoors, and burn it the morning before Passover begins. There are blessings to be said while performing this custom.

I am now going to propose a new Passover ritual: the discarding of Passover food at the end of the holiday. We have performed this ritual religiously,

so to speak, for years. We do not have any formalized blessings, but we find ourselves saying "Just get rid of it."

Some say that Passover food is tasty. Really? All year long you can have matzo meal pancakes, cheese-tomato on matzo as pseudo-pizza, matzo kugel, Passover cake, and matzo brei. But you won't.

Some Passover foods never really had a chametz component. The Passover versions of these are just carefully made. Passover canned fish or jars of gefilte fish are kept after Passover.

Foods made with corn syrup would not be permitted on Passover. Replacing the corn syrup with cane sugar makes those foods acceptable – and better. Passover candies can be wonderful. The Passover version of Coca-Cola is so superior that many people stock up on Coke during Passover. And most of these people are not Jewish.

But, let's face it, when Passover ends, we are happy to get back to our bread, cakes, and other products. Manischewitz marble cake? Out with it! Passover gluten-free pasta? Toss it! Passover breakfast cereals? Take them away!

And then there's the matzo. Why, or why, is this sold in the mega-carton that contains five one-pound boxes? We have never, ever, consumed this much matzo during the holiday. With four growing kids and many rounds of matzo brei, we only got into the third box.

The leftovers were taken to the compost pile, where real truth was revealed. The wild creatures who made our compost pile into a feeding station completely ignored the matzo. So it's not just my opinion on Passover food. It's also the opinion of the birds, squirrels, mice, and raccoons.

If there is to be a ceremonial blessing for this, I propose that it contain thanks for having survived through this dietary change and that it also welcome the return of the leavened food that gives pleasure to our palates and intestines.

**Join the next Writers' Group meeting on
Thursday, March 19 at 10:30AM in the
CBI Library. All are welcome!**



Congregation Beth Israel

March 2020

Adar ~ Nisan 5780

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 March 9:30 AM Religious School All Grades 12:15 PM Purim Shpiel Rehearsal 4:00 PM I-Help Men – Sponsored by Madrichim & Aleynu	2	3 7:00 PM Adult Education Program	4 2:00 PM Worship Committee Meeting 4:00 PM B'nai Mitzvah 4:30 PM Hebrew School 6:00 PM Purim Shpiel Rehearsal	5 12:00 PM Lunch with Rabbi @ Baja Cantina  7:15 PM Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	6 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services with special Birthday Blessings	7 9:00 AM Morning Shabbat Service 10:45 AM Shabbat Torah Study CJFF Opening Night @ CHS Center for Performing Arts 6:30 PM Reception 7:30 PM Film “A Miracle of Miracles” Q & A/ Performance by Michael Bernardi
8 Daylight Savings Begins 9:30 AM Religious School All Grades 10:30 PM Purim Carnival @CBI CJFF @ CHS Center for Performing Arts 2:00 PM Reception 3:00 PM Film “ <i>Violins of Hope: Strings of the Holocaust</i> ” 4:15 PM Q&A & violinist Cookie Segelstein performance	9	10 CJFF @ Lighthouse Cinemas Pacific Grove 7:00 PM Film “The Keeper”	11 4:00 PM B'nai Mitzvah 4:30 PM Hebrew School 5:45 PM Purim Shpiel Pizza to follow	12 CJFF @ CBI 7:00 PM Film “93 Queen” Talk Back with Rabbi David Holtzberg & Binie Holtzberg	13  6:00 Children's Music Shabbat 6:45 Shabbat Dinner honoring the Kolinskys 7:45 PM Erev Shabbat Services	14 10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study CJFF @ MIIS 6:30 PM reception 7:30 PM Film “Budapest Noir” Q & A with Director Eva Gardo
15 9:30 AM Religious School All Grades 12:00 PM Teachers Meeting CJFF @ MIIS Partners: Catholic Diocese & Universal Unitarian Church of Mont. 3:00 PM Film/Panel “The Accountant of Auschwitz” Wine & Food reception	16	17 CJFF @ Lighthouse Cinemas Pacific Grove 7:00 PM Film “Tel Aviv on Fire”	18 4:00 PM B'nai Mitzvah 4:30 PM Hebrew School 6:00 Aleynu	19 10:30 AM CBI Writers' Group 12:00 PM Best Years CJFF @ CBI 7:00 PM Films Night of Shorts Q&A with filmmakers Tiffany Shlain, Ken Goldberg, & Michael Horwitz	20  7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services	21 9:30 Religious School 7 th Grade Only 10:30 AM Shabbat Service & Torah Study CJFF @ CBI 7:00 PM Film “Shoelaces” 8:30 Wine & Dessert reception
22 9:30 AM Religious School K/6 9:30 AM Munchkin & Me CJFF @ CBI Closing Night 5:30 PM Reception 6:45 PM Film “Abe”	23	24 6:30 PM Executive Committee	25 4:00 PM B'nai Mitzvah 4:30 PM Hebrew School 7:00 PM Rosh Chodesh Study	26 7:15 PM Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	27 6:30 PM Community Shabbat Dinner 7:30 PM CBI Board Shabbat Services with special Anniversary Blessings	28 10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study 10:30 AM Mazel Tots - Passover
29 9:30 AM Religious School All Grades 12:00 PM Madrichim Mtg.	30	31 7:15 PM Board of Trustees Meet	1 April 4:00 PM B'nai Mitzvah 4:30 PM Hebrew School 6:00 PM Aleynu	2 12:00 PM Lunch with Rabbi @ Baja Cantina  7:15 PM Adult B'Mitzvah Class	3 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services with special Birthday Blessings	4 10:30 AM Shabbat Service when Rizal Baglio becomes a Bar Mitzvah

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Laura Arnow	1	Gadi Maier	14
Robert Feller	1	Deanna Adolph	15
Michael Goldman	1	Barbara Ehrenpreis	17
Charles Kosmont	1	Sheree Goldman	17
Corrina Rucka	1	Cara Lieb	17
Copland Kelly-Giammarco	2	Ellen Weiner	17
Katie Marie Kelton	2	Diana Rosenthal	18
Jacob Carlyle	4	Debora Waxer	18
Richard Gerber	4	Barry Harrow	20
Linda Sweet	4	Jonny Goldberg	21
Dan Weiner	4	Paul Richmond	22
Stanton Schiffer	5	Wendy Rosenthal	22
Ethan Schmidt	5	Ronald Kohen	23
Eby Wold	5	Karen Paull	24
Toni Lakind	7	David Epel	26
Grant Rosenberg	8	Donna Shore	26
Eugene Ganeles	9	Michael Dicus	27
Nancy Rund	9	Aline Harris	27
Channaorah Meir	10	Ann Packer	28
Peter Singer	10	Chad Hinds	29
Tobi Marcus	11	Benjamin Lakind	31
Martin Wiskoff	12		

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

David Awerbuck & Astrid Holberg	5
Peter & Deborah Stern	6
Lewis & Sandra Leader	8
Robert Moskowitz & Jeannette Stern	13
Howard Raphael	17
David & Barbara Ehrenpreis	25

Family News

We mourn the loss of Ann Fay mother of Peggy Harrit. May her memory be a blessing to us all.

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

CBI Religious School

CBI Youth Calendar for March 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



Celebrate Passover

March 28, 10:30 - 12:00

Children ages 2 1/2 - 5, with a parent, are invited to learn about Passover with Early Childhood Educator, Chinanit Kershner, as they listen to a PJ Library story, make a craft, and have fun playing. Parents - make new friends yourself when you bring your child to this special program.

Pre-registration is very helpful for the purchasing of materials. \$5 for a single event with preregistration, or \$10 at the door.

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



Who: Parallel program for parents of babies

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

When: Sunday, March 22, 9:30 - 11:00 & one Sunday a month throughout the school year

What: Parenting discussion group based on concerns of the group, especially around holidays. This month's topic: Passover

Preschool group with PJ Library story and playtime with Liz Heff, Hebrew songs with Mira Nissim and singing with Cantor Alisa Fineman.

Yummy snacks/ breakfast provided for adults and children.

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

How Much: \$5 per session

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



A PJ Library Program Thank you to the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the Hornik Family Foundation for subsidizing these program.

Date	Special Events and Activities
Sun., Mar. 1	Religious School for all grades (9:30 - 12:00) Specialist - Cooking (hamantashen) IHELP hosted by Madrichim & Aleynu
Wed., Mar. 4	B'nai Mitzvah Class (4:00) & Hebrew School (4:30 - 6:00)
Sat., Mar. 7	Purim Carnival setup @ CBI (1:00)
Sun., Mar. 8	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS Religious School for all grades (9:30 - 12:00) Purim Carnival (10:30 - 12:00)
Wed., Mar. 11	B'nai Mitzvah Class (4:00) & Hebrew School (4:30 - 5:45) Purim Shpiel (5:45 - 6:30) with pizza dinner to follow
Fri., Mar. 13	Children's Shabbat (6:00)
Sun., Mar. 15	Religious School for all grades (9:30 - 12:00) No Specialist Aleynu Mural installed in playground Teacher's Meeting with Dr. Beryl Levinger (12:00 - 2:00)
Wed., Mar. 18	B'nai Mitzvah Class (4:00) & Hebrew School (4:30 - 6:00) Aleynu (6:00 - 8:00)
Sat., Mar 21	Shabbat Study for Grade 7 only (9:30 - 12:00)
Sun., Mar. 22	Religious School for grades K - 6 only (9:30 - 12:00) Specialist - Shira My Munchkin & Me - Passover (9:30 - 11:00)
Wed., Mar. 25	B'nai Mitzvah Class (4:00) & Hebrew School (4:30 - 6:00)
Sat. Mar 28	Mazel Tots - Passover (10:30-12:00)
Sun., Mar. 29	Religious School for all grades (9:30 - 12:00) Specialist - Storytelling with Susan Newton Madrichim Meeting (12:00 - 1:00) Katanim Event - Slime Party! (12:00 - 1:30)



From Louise Riddle-Kaufman

Dear CBI congregants,

It is with intense emotions that I write to share some news with you. After 21 years of serving as the

Director of Education for Congregation Beth Israel, I have decided to retire at the end of this school year. I was planning on waiting another year, but various factors have come together that leave me feeling that now is the appropriate time. The position of educator requires a great deal of energy dedicated towards creative innovation to continually engage our changing student population. It is time for fresh vision and vivacity.

As many of you know, my parents are aging and my father's health in particular is not good. I travel to New York as frequently as possible, but my availability has been constrained by the school schedule. I also have a brand new grandson in Colorado who I want to hold and love as much as possible. My husband has been retired for almost 5 years now, but our leisure time together has been limited due to my work commitments.

It has been my sacred work to guide the Jewish education of so many children over the years. I devoted myself to developing our school, constantly searching for innovations that would further engage and inspire our students. I passionately believe in the importance of reaching the hearts as well as the minds of our children in order that they may grow into actively engaged Jewish adults. I have been honored to work with dedicated faculty members who have given their time and hearts each week towards this essential goal. It has been a privilege to connect with those of you who are the parents of our students. I enjoyed getting to know you and learn about your families as I worked to meet your needs.

Partings are sad, and this is no exception. I am leaving the position this summer, but not the congregation. I look forward to engaging in other activities with CBI in the future.

B'Shalom,

Louise Riddell-Kaufman
MARE, RJE

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!



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- In your internet browser enter **amazonsmile.com**
- Select CBI as your selected recipient
- Every purchase you make sends dollars to CBI

KATANIM!

Who: 2nd-4th Graders

What: Slime Party!
(Making slime)



Time: 12 - 1:30 p.m.

Where: CBI

When: Sunday, Mar. 29

How much: \$5

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



Sunday, March 8, 2020

Sponsored by Congregation Beth Israel & Temple Beth El

@ Congregation Beth Israel, 5716 Carmel Valley Rd., Carmel

9:30: Both Schools Gather in the Sanctuary

10:30 – 12:00: CARNIVAL



New Games geared toward older kids.... Come check it out!

Each Child needs \$10.00 for pizza lunch and 20 game tickets
Additional game tickets 25¢ each



Great Raffle Prizes
\$1 ticket/ \$5 for 6



Hamantashen for Sale



Parents, **we need help** setting up, running games, serving lunch & CLEANING UP.

Wearing a Purim costume earns 1 free prize ticket
Bring a non-perishable food item & earn 1 free game ticket.

Parents of children in Kindergarten – 2nd grade – please plan on attending the Carnival so you can assist your children

FRIENDS AND FAMILY ARE WELCOME!





Torah

Connections:

Vol. 142

March 2020, 5780 - Michael Waxer

Should we strive to be a monk?

The two universes, the physical and the spiritual, can be compared to that of matter and energy. Einstein helped us understand a relationship, wherein a tiny bit of matter can become a tremendous amount of energy. Similarly, a small amount of spiritual energy may have a large physical effect in this world.

Furthermore, a small deed, or mitzvah, could have a very large impact in the spiritual realm. Oftentimes folks wonder if something that is seemingly trivial, like reciting a blessing, can have any real significance? Once we see this possible connection between the physical and spiritual realms, we can begin to understand the interaction between these two systems. The mitzvot, the instructions we have from the Torah, are the key.

The Exodus, where the Israelites are enslaved by Pharaoh in Egypt, is a story of slavery and ultimate redemption. This process is not unlike our own personal growth. We are enslaved by our physical desires in this world, even though we all sense that there is another reality, where our 'soul', or *neshama*, cries out to connect spiritually. If we are able to do this, to find a spiritual pathway, we can then harness and share this spiritual energy to uplift ourselves, as well as our physical world.

One of the fascinating aspects of Judaism is that our ability to grow spiritually is linked to how embedded we are in this physical reality. Part of our purpose is to figure out how to transform our desires so they become conduits of spiritual energy transfer, so we are not a slave to our base, materialistic, desires.

Judaism does **not** place a high value on a person who separates themselves from temptation and desire,

essentially becoming a monk. **Judaism wants us to partake in all the permitted pleasures, and gives us a method to elevate them to a level of holiness.** For example, one of the mitzvot is that ***we should eat and we should satisfy ourselves.*** How wonderful is that? In fact, our sages tell us that there are four questions we will be asked when we pass from this world to the next, Olam HaBah, and one of those questions is, ***'Did you partake in all the permitted pleasures?'***

In the story of Jacob's ladder, where Jacob sees angels going up and down the ladder, it says:

"And he dreamed and there appeared a ladder that was set earthward and its top was reaching heavenward, and there appeared angels of God ascending and descending on it." (Genesis [Beresheet] 28:12).

This concept, that we need to be 'set earthward' in order to harness spiritual energy is a powerful concept. One might think it is by closing oneself off to everything physical that enables us to connect spiritually. But the Torah teaches us this unusual connection.

Our sages teach us that each of us can, while being firmly planted 'in reality', be a unique connection between the physical and the spiritual. We learn that a small good deed can have a large impact in the spiritual world. Conversely, a little spiritual light can have a large impact in this world. This idea can help us understand part of our purpose, since we choose whether we want to be this conduit. We choose if we want to develop spiritually.

By being rooted in the physical world we have a greater ability to harness the spiritual. The mitzvot are tools that we have been given to connect these two universes, the physical and the spiritual. If this is true, isn't it a tremendous concept that each of us can be a conduit to transmit this spiritual light into this physical world, and in the process lift all of us up!

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. If you have any comments regarding 'Torah Connections' e-mail a note to: mlwaxer@sbcglobal.net.



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March Jewish Family Ideas

- ◆ Purim re-enacts the story of Esther and Mordecai. Purim allows us to struggle with evil and with what is involve in defeating it. Have a family discussion about the difficult decisions that sometimes have to be made in order to do the right thing. Use specific examples to make a biblical story current.
- ◆ One of the traditions of Purim is to make shalach manot to give to friends and family members. Use small baskets, colorful bags, miniature Chinese food cartons, or decorate recycled strawberry baskets. Fill them with hamentashen and other goodies and deliver personally.
- ◆ Celebrate Purim the joy of Purim with your congregational friends. “The Sounds of Purim” Spiel at CBI on March 11, Preschool event on March 7, Purim Carnival at CBI on March 8.
- ◆ Book Suggestions:

The Story of Esther by Eric Kimmel. Beauty pageant, murder plots, political jockeying, and manipulating feasts unroll in biblical order. The text is dense and colorful with rich vocabulary in the embroidered dialogues underlining biblical action. This length offers a good volume for older elementary school children who often consider themselves too advanced for picture books. Ages 8+

Purim Play by Roni Schotter. With her cousins sick, Frannie is disappointed that her neighbor, Mrs. Teplitzky, has offered to take part in her family’s annual Purim play. Mrs. Teplitzky, a former actress, arrives in a splendid costume. The elderly widow turns out to be a superb villain and steals the show. She also becomes a friend. Woven into the text are customs associated with the holiday including details about hamantaschen and the tradition of mishloah manot. Ages 4 - 8

Celebrating the Jewish Year: The Winter Holidays: Hanukkah, Tu B'shevat, Purim by Paul Steinberg. Very highly recommended and informative reading that will help the reader to create a memorable holiday experience for themselves and their loved ones that will be enhanced in both meaning and spirit. Adult

Note: Most of the above children’s 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. For Children ages 9 - 11 join PJ Our Way - pjourway.org.

DANIEL S. ROBBINS, Ph.D.
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

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

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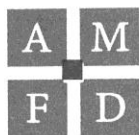
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(831) 624-2015

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Website: www.carmelbethisrael.org



Congregation Beth Israel
 5716 Carmel Valley Road
 Carmel, CA 93923

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Parshiot

March 7, Tetzaveh

T: Exodus 27:20-30:10

H: Ezekiel 43:10-2

March 14, Ki Tisa

T: Exodus 30:11-34:35

H: I Kings 18:1-3

**March 21,
 Vayakhel/Pekude**

T: Exodus 35:1-40:38

H: I Kings 7:51-8:21

March 28, Vayikra

T: Leviticus 1:1-5:26

H: Isaiah 43:21-44:23