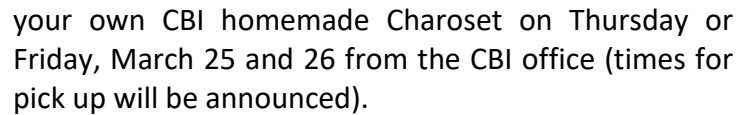


www.carmelbethisrael.org



Our congregation's Community Passover Seder will be held online the second night of Passover, **Sunday, March 28 beginning at 6:00 PM.** This fun, family style Zoom Seder (Zeder?) will be led by Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum and Cantorial Soloist Suzanne Guinane. Because we will be doing this on Zoom, there are some special considerations as we prepare for our second night Seder. The Haggadah we will use will be presented on your computer screens through a series of beautifully created slides. We will take turns unmuting and reading different parts of the Seder. Please call Rabbi Greenbaum if you want to volunteer to read one of the English readings that will appear on your screen. Suzanne will sing many of the songs we have enjoyed in the past and one lucky family with young children will lead the singing of the 4 questions (Ma Nishtanah).

We will start our Seder with each of us taking turns reading interspersed with lots of singing. After 2 cups of wine/grape juice, blessings over the various foods, and sharing the Seder story we will take a 20 minute break from our Seder to enjoy our dinner. Then we will continue with the hunt for the Afikomen. Those with children at home are encouraged to play a hide and seek game using a piece of Matzah. If possible, have a little reward for the child who finds the hidden matzah. After dinner it will take another 15-20 minutes as we finish the second part of the Seder including blessings after the meal, two more cups of wine/grape juice and welcoming Elijah to our Seder tables.

Please call the CBI office or sign up on line to participate in this year's free Seder [CBI Virtual Seder](#). Don't forget to call Rabbi Greenbaum to volunteer for a reading part. Finally, remember to write in your calendar to swing by the CBI office to pick up your own homemade tasty Charoset.





From the Rabbi's Desk...

What a difference one year makes! Exactly one year ago in my March Shofar article I reflected on the upcoming changes at CBI with the announcement that both Alisa Fineman and Louise Riddle-Kaufman were stepping down from their official roles as Cantor and Educator. I spoke about the challenges and opportunities that can be found with any change. Little did I know that our real challenge would start in the middle of the month, our closing the building because of Covid-19.

Regularly I remind people to count their blessings when too much attention is being placed on their curses. It really is easy to complain (and very Jewish!). "Oy vey, the tzoris we have had to suffer."

But the blessings lift my soul and put a dance in my step, even in these troubling times. There are many blessings in our lives. After months of Zoom interviews and meetings and services we welcomed Cantorial Soloist/Educator Suzanne Guinane into our CBI family. With a beautiful voice she brings joy to our online services and religious school programs. She seems to have an uplifting song for every holiday, life cycle event or occasion. She helps lead our services balancing old familiar melodies with new tunes we are all learning together. Working with our teachers, our aides and often with the students themselves she is moving our religious school forward despite being forced to hold everything online.

Zoom might just be a computer program, but in my mind it is a gift from God. While it wasn't completely seamless, we quickly moved from in-person services to services shared on our computer screens. With my daughters offering their tech advice, I learned how to lead, mute, share... as the services progressed. Our members' response surprised me. Our service attendance increased and has remained strong over the last 12 months. I guess if one need not bother with dressing up or schlepping to the synagogue it is easier to join services. I have even found that members enjoy visiting with one another using the chat room during our Friday evenings together. I am thrilled CBI is providing a way for our members to connect on a regular basis.

While some life cycle events have been challenging as well, once again blessings can be found in online celebrations. Grandparents who could not travel can now attend online baby namings and Bar/Bat Mitzvah services. Relatives from around the globe can join together for a memorial celebration of life when a loved one passes. Large distances evaporate online. Bedridden patients can dial in and join most events today. During the high holy days I had family members join our services from Seattle, Bellevue, Southern California, and New Jersey. My mother "comes to" many of our weekly Shabbat services. This simply wasn't possible before everything went online.

Of course, I miss the face-to-face interactions that we all long for and need. While I have made more phone calls and met some people outside, it has been challenging not physically being with our members. In the weeks and months ahead, as more of us are vaccinated, I hope to visit with more of our members one on one (still wearing our masks!) and maybe meeting outside your homes. If you would like to meet with me in person, please let me know. I will try to work it out!

During this ongoing pandemic, let's continue to support one another as best we can. Let's enjoy the time we are spending with our closest family members and people within our 'safe bubbles.' Now is the time for those indoor projects we have been trying to get to, but never found the time. I'm reading more. Watching movies with Susan. We are even playing Wii bowling and card games on family nights.

I pray we all stay safe and remain spiritually connected. Amen.





From our President *Dan Nussbaum, President Board of Trustees*

I have three topics for this article: CBI budget review, the restart of the Potrero early childhood education program, and our Saturday Afternoon program, Seudah Shlishit (the “third Shabbat meal”).

As we navigate this difficult COVID time, I regularly speak with Presidents of other congregations that are similar in size and geography, and one constant topic is Financial Health. Everyone is going through the same uncertainties on this matter. A best practice in financial management is to regularly review expenses and revenue, and to make adjustments as needed. In January, Rich Ader, our treasurer, and Julie Chase prepared a midyear budget review, taking into account all CBI activities to date. The conclusion, which I agree with, is that CBI is in better financial shape than we had feared at the beginning of the year. Our financial position has gone from very worrisome, when we put together the original budget, to cautiously optimistic. Great thanks go to Julie and her team for being positively frugal. Bravos go to Malina Breaux and Arlene Krebs and others who put together “virtual” fundraising events. I am also thankful to the professionals in the legal and medical professions (led by Mitch Winick, Jim Gumberg, Rich Gerber, and David Awerbuck) who responded uniquely and positively to our request for support. In summary I greatly appreciate the extraordinary generosity of the many congregants who have provided additional funds in these challenging times.

One of these days we’re going to emerge from this lockdown. Actually, we are beginning to emerge, with vaccinations happening and all the curves headed in the right direction. So, I see the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel. When we get there we better have a plan for opening, and one of the best ways to do this is to run some smaller operations, from which we can derive lessons learned. It’s no use saying “why do something that might lead to negative lessons-learned?”. The truth is there’s no alternative. We have all the best experience and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, from the State of California,

local, county and city rules, from URJ (the Union for Reform Judaism), as well as from our own members who are medical professionals, but it remains necessary for us to develop our own plans and to initiate them so that we can accommodate all that is special and unique about CBI’s circumstances. After deliberations by the Board of Trustees, based on consultations with medical authorities and the relevant laws, regulations, and rules from outside sources, and looking at best practices of other houses of worship, we’ve decided to allow Potrero to re-open its early childhood education program. You can feel confident about this, as we have taken many, many precautions, and I’m happy to discuss them with you at any time.

As I write this, we had done six successful Saturday afternoon sessions of what’s called Seudah Shlishit. After a break of a few weeks we have restarted this on February 20, and we will continue for six weeks. Beryl Levinger has graciously offered to lead a study on the book of Ruth, a truly remarkable tale that’s definitely not just a love story. I plan to lead sessions on the book of Job and on Judges. Several members have told me that Seudah Shlishit has been a rewarding and pleasing way to end Shabbat. Feel free to join us and consider sharing your interest and knowledge in a topic of your choice by leading a session. This is one of many ways to socialize in a safe way and get to know fellow congregants better.

Wishing that you and your loved ones all Stay Safe,

Dan

(C) (831) 324-3228



CBI Interest-Free Loans

Because of the generosity of an anonymous donor, CBI is now offering interest-free loans up to \$500 for CBI members. Please contact our Administrative Assistant, Abby King, or Rabbi Greenbaum at 831-624-2015 and ask for the simple one- page loan application. Loans will be made for both personal and professional needs. All requests will be kept confidential. Our congregation is here to support those in need during these challenging financial times.



From Our Cantorial Soloist and Director of Education....

In some ways it is hard to believe this will be my 2nd Virtual Seder. How can it be we are approaching 1 year of living with Coronavirus, now known as COVID-19, and learning how we can keep each other and ourselves safe? In many ways it feels much longer than 1 year.

How will we safely celebrate this year?

Religious School - we will celebrate virtually on **Sunday, 3/21, at 10:30 am** with a **Musical Seder** led by Ellen Allard, Eliana Light, Shira Kline, Rabbi Josh Warshawsky, Elana Jagoda, Rick Recht, Joanie Leeds and Nefesh Mountain. I am so excited to share this with our families.....especially the young at heart.



Congregation – we will celebrate with a **Community Seder** on **Sunday, 3/28, at 6:00 pm** with a beautiful virtual seder written by Ellie Flier. Rabbi and I would love to have your help in leading our Seder. Who will sing The Four Questions, chant the Order of the Seder, lead us in making a Hillel Sandwich and who will find the Afikommen?! I can't wait to find out. And next year may it be in person!



Continuing on the first Friday this month, **March 5**, and the first Friday night service in future months, this service will be designated as “Family Shabbat” and include more children friendly songs and a story instead of a sermon. While we will still begin at **7:30** we hope more young families will join us. In the past many of our older members have found Family Shabbat to be their favorite service. We hope everyone will join us the first Friday each month for our uplifting Family Shabbat services.



Tot Shabbat Returns

All preschoolers and their families are invited to join Rabbi Greenbaum and Cantorial Soloist Suzanne Guinane and Moshe the Monkey on Zoom **Friday March 19 at 4:30 PM**. On line they will lead a short service (approximately 30 minutes) filled with songs and a story. This uplifting gathering is perfect for our youngest members and their families. Please invite young families who are not yet CBI members to join us online for our Tot Shabbat program. The zoom link will be sent in our weekly CBI eblast. You can also call the CBI office if you cannot find the link.



Seudah Shlishit

A wonderful tradition is to enjoy a third meal (Seudah Shlishit) on Sabbath afternoon, just before the end of Sabbath. While traditionally this was a light meal shared at the

synagogue before evening services, our approach is to join together for a little shared learning before ending the Sabbath with a Havdalah service.

Beryl Levinger has graciously offered to lead a study on the book of Ruth, a truly remarkable tale that's


definitely not just a love story. Dan will lead sessions on the book of Job and Judges. Here is the schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Leader</u>
6 Mar	Ruth	Beryl Levinger
13 Mar	Ruth	Beryl Levinger
20 Mar	Judges	Dan Nussbaum

Please join us on our service Zoom link at **5:00 PM**. Each gathering will end with a celebration of Havdalah. Not required but recommended, have a little nosh to enjoy during the learning session. We hope you will join us.



Lunch with the Rabbi



Join Rabbi Greenbaum this month on **Thursday, March 11 at noon** online as he leads a virtual gathering discussion on “What safe steps might CBI take so we can socialize in person as more of us are vaccinated?” Can we hold outdoor services? Can our religious school begin to meet on site? How do we determine who can attend events in person? Should our services stay on zoom even after we finally are back in the sanctuary together? Let’s enjoy open and respectful learning and sharing while we enjoy our own lunch that we prepared for ourselves. No RSVP is needed. Just look for the link to this meeting which will be in the CBI Weekly eblast. Click on the link and join our Zoom discussion.

CBI Community: Hopes & Dreams

At a recent Shabbat service, Liotte Greenbaum led the congregation through a word cloud app asking everyone to enter their hopes and dreams for 2021. Here is the inspiring result:





UJC Donations

Anthony & Lary Lynn Muller
Michael & Debora Waxer: in honor of David Sabih
and Anna Swartley

Cantorial Restricted

David Wheeler: in memory of Mildred Kline

CBI College Scholarship Fund

Lester Tockerman

Rabbi's Discretionary

William & Myrna Brandwein: in memory of her
darling mother's yahrzeit
Barry R. Harrow
Lewis A. & Sandra Leader: in memory of parents,
John & Marion Nisley
Lewis A. & Sandra Leader: in memory of Richard
Rosen

Fundraising - Other

Senen & Alison Baguio: Event #1 magic show
sponsors
Pizza My Heart: Event #1 sponsor
David Goldberg, M. D. & Kerri Goldberg: in honor
of Jonny's Bnai Mitzvah - Dr. & Lawyers
Fundraising
Rabbi Bruce & Susan Greenbaum: Event #3
sponsors
Brynie Kaplan-Dau & Daniel J. Dau: Event #1 magic
show sponsors
Arlene Krebs: At Your Home sponsor
Lewis A. & Sandra Leader: You in the Pew
Clark Miller & Cara Lieb: Event #3 sponsors
Michael & Susan Newton: Event #4 sponsors
Dr. Carlos D. Ramirez & Dr. Lisa R. Kroopf:
Sponsorship Event #1 magic show sponsors
Roger & Joanne Shiffman: Event #5 sponsors

Carmel Jewish Film Festival Donation

Diana Greenbaum: in memory of Susan
Greenbaum's uncle Sheldon Cooper

General Donations

Bee Epstein-Shepherd: in memory of Al Adolph and
Neil Teitler
Ellyn Gelson: in honor of February birthdays and
anniversaries
Ellyn Gelson: in memory of Neil Teitler
Nick & Aline Harris: in memory of Jack Harris
Victor & Sylvia Krimsley: in memory of Al Adolf
Samuel & Beryl Levinger: In loving memory of
Beryl's brother Mitchell Schapira
Stanley Semmel: in memory of June Horowitz
Herbert Stern: in memory of Rita Gross Berro, Leon
Berro, & Esther Berro Stern
Lester Tockerman: in memory of a fellow veteran
Lester Tockerman: in memory of Helen Tockerman
& Vicki Levitan
Pauline & Anthony Troia: in memory of Mildred
Kline and in memory of Al Adolph

Social Action

Lester Tockerman: in memory of Al Adolph



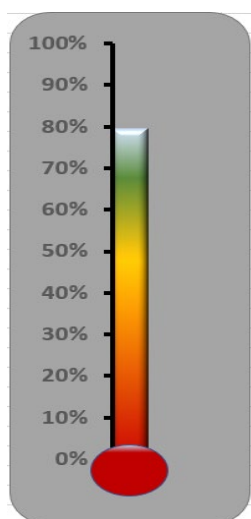
CBI's Back Yard

With more people getting vaccinated and with safe distancing and mask wearing, maybe it is time to safely gather behind our CBI building with your friends. Telephone your

Chavurah or a couple friends and plan a picnic. Many groups have discovered that setting up chairs in a large circle (safe distancing) on our blacktop below our building is a great place to visit. There are already some tables and chairs just waiting for you. Some have brought lunches or wine and snacks to enjoy while visiting.

If you choose to use our backyard, please be extra careful in maintaining at least 6 feet from others and wear your masks! Our lower lot is also pet friendly (leashes suggested and please pick up after your dogs) and open every day. Call the rabbi if you want him to stop in for a short visit as well. He'll even help lead a discussion if you want. You are welcome to take advantage of this prime meeting space that allows for safe distancing in a responsible fashion. Remember there are no bathrooms available.

CBI FUNDRAISING



Help us
reach our
fundraising
goal



Have you been one of the “lucky ones” who’s enjoyed our events? What?! You haven’t “tuned in”!! Oh my gosh, you’re missing out—but you can still register for our next 3 events—A Ladies Paint Night, Wilderness Trekking Adventures, and a discussion on White Supremacy!

What a delight Josh Logan and Bayley were for our **Magic Night** (January 24th)! The children and adults were enthralled by their wizardry. Combined with a pizza from Pizza My Heart, which donated 30% of that day’s sales to CBI -- it was a lively & delicious event!

Thank you to the sponsors: Shel & Scott Lyons Family, Byrnie Kaplan & Dan Dau Family, Tally & Sam Helfont Family, Ramirez/Kroopf Family & Direct Access MD, Josh Logan, Pizza My Heart. A very special thank you to Angelica and Marshal Blatt, who generously donated a thank you gift to Josh and Bayley. Every event takes a team effort, so heartfelt thanks to Wendy Rosenthal, Angelica Blatt, Benji Tackett, Ilana Entin, Monica Browning & Shel Lyons.

Next was the viewing of the award-winning film, **UnReined** (January 31st) and a discussion with the film’s two producers—one in New York City, the other in Israel, where she was joined with the film’s lead Nancy plus Khalad, a Palestinian dressage trainer who joined from Ramallah. We had guests participating from San Francisco, Washington DC & Florida. So zoom united us from around the world!

Thanks to the sponsors: Rabbi Bruce & Susan Greenbaum, Arlene Krebs & Justine Stock. And a special thanks to Susan who prepared the delicious brunch boxes, which included her home baked muffins!

And then there was **Budapest Noir** (February 7th)! What a great thriller, keeping you on the edge of your seat, with fabulous “film noir” location shots of Budapest. Susan Greenbaum & Marsha Kelly moderated a discussion with the film’s director, Éva Gardós, who joined from LA. And thanks to sponsors Rabbi Bruce & Susan Greenbaum and Marsha and Brian Kelly, and the wonderful filled-to-the-brim snack boxes they provided.

We distributed **Champagne, Flowers & Chocolates** to those who signed up for our February 14th event. The Love Songs Concert has been postponed until this summer.

Deep appreciation to our sponsors: Cara Lieb & Clark Miller, Malina Breaux, Jennifer Stone & Lew Bauman, Naomi & Seth Pollack and Amanda & Gordon Freedman.

Next Up: **Ladies Paint Night with Paul Richmond** on Saturday

March 13, 2021

7:00-9:00pm Join Paul for a relaxing, fun virtual paint night for adults. Relax, raise a brush, and put a little color in your life. Paul will guide you step-by-step, with lots of stories and laughs along the way. You’ll receive 1 canvas, acrylic paints,



brushes & a bottle of wine!

Cost— \$54 per person Thank you to our sponsors: Paul Richmond & Dennis Niekro; Joanne & Dr. Roger Shiffman, Wendy Rosenthal and Monica Browning.

A Special Thank You to Rabbi Bruce for his technical wizardry in hosting each of our zoom events, and mostly for “virtually infusing” us with his lively, upbeat spirit!

Mark Your Calendars & Register for:

Way Out There—Adventures of a Wilderness Trekker

Sunday APRIL 18th

5:00-6:30pm with J.R. Harris

White Supremacy—Here & Abroad Sunday, May 23rd 5:00-7:00pm

With Professor Jason Blazakis, MIIS

Registration, Tickets & Zoom Links!

To purchase tickets for any event, please call the CBI office: 831-624-2015 or

Email: shalomcbi@aol.com

Each event has a unique zoom link which will be provided once you register!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Laura Arnow	1
Robert Feller	1
Charles Kosmont	1
Corrina Joan Rucka	1
Sandy Wagner	1
Katie Marie Kelton	2
Jacob Carlyle	4
Richard Gerber	4
Linda Sweet	4
Dan Weiner	4
Stanton Schiffer	5
Ethan Schmidt	5
Eby Wold	5
Toni Lakind	7
Grant Rosenberg	8
Eugene Ganeles	9
Nancy Rund	9
Channaorah Meir	10
Peter Singer	10
Dennis Bates	11
Tobi Marcus	11
Martin Wiskoff	12

Gadi Maier	14
Deanna Adolph	15
Ruby Browning	16
Barbara Ehrenpreis	17
Sheree Goldman	17
Cara Lieb	17
Ellen Weiner	17
Diana Rosenthal	18
Debora Waxer	18
Jonny Goldberg	21
Paul Richmond	22
Wendy Rosenthal	22
Ronald Kohen	23
Karen Paull	24
David Epel	26
Donna Shore	26
Michael Dicus	27
Aline Harris	27
Elaine Gallup Conner	28
Ann Packer	28
Chad Hinds	29
Ari Entin	31
Benjamin Lakind	31

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Dr. David Awerbuck & Dr. Astrid Holberg	5
Peter & Deborah Stern	6
Lewis A. & Sandra Leader	8
Robert Moskowitz & Jeannette Stern	13
David & Barbara Ehrenpreis	25

Family News

We Mourn the loss of:

Long time members Al Adolf and Judy Masliyah

Neil Teitler, brother to Abra

May their memories be for a blessing.



Congregation Beth Israel

March 2021

Adar ~ Nisan 5781

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>All CBI services, programs, & classes accessible online or by phone. Look for links in the weekly edition of CBI This Week via email.</p> <p>Links for Religious School and Hebrew School provided by Teachers.</p> 	1	2	3	4	5	6
			4:30 PM Hebrew School - Zoom 6:30 PM Aleynu on Zoom		 <p>7:30 PM Erev Family Shabbat Services with Birthday Blessings Via Zoom</p>	10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study via Zoom 4:30 PM Seudah Shlishit via Zoom
7 9:30 AM Religious School on Zoom I_Help Men – Off Site	8	9	10 4:30 PM Hebrew School - Zoom	11  <p>12:00 PM Lunch with Rabbi via Zoom</p>	12 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services via Zoom	13 10:30 AM Shabbat Service & Study with 6 th & 7 th grades joining us. Via Zoom 4:30 PM Seudah Shlishit via Zoom 7:00 PM Event #5 Ladies Paint Night
14 9:30 AM Religious School on Zoom	15	16 7:00 PM CBI Executive Committee	17 4:30 PM Hebrew School – Zoom 6:30 PM Aleynu on Zoom	18	19  <p>4:30 PM Tot Shabbat 7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Services via Zoom</p>	20 10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study via Zoom 4:30 PM Seudah Shlishit
21 9:30 AM Religious with School with Model Seder Zoom	22	23 7:00 PM CBI Board of Trustees	24 4:30 Hebrew School- Zoom 7:00 PM Worship Committee	25	26 7:30 PM Erev with Anniversary Blessings Shabbat Services via Zoom	27 First Seder 10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study via Zoom 
28 Passover No Religious School  <p>2021 - 5781</p> <p>Virtual Community Passover Seder</p> <p>6:00 PM Community Seder on Zoom</p>	29 Passover	30 Passover	31 Passover No Hebrew School 	1 APRIL Passover	2 Passover 7:30 PM Erev Family Shabbat Services via Zoom with Birthday Blessings	3 Passover 10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study



Torah Connections:

Vol. 154 March 2021, 5781

By Michael L. Waxer

We will Do and we will Understand (Hear)

“Moses came and told the people all the words of HaShem and all the ordinances, and the entire people responded with one voice, and they said, All the words that HaShem has spoken we will do.” (Exodus [Shmot] 24:3) [emphasis added].

“He took the Book of the Covenant and read it for the hearing (ears) of the people, and they said, Everything that HaShem has spoken we will do and we will hear!” (Exodus [Shmot] 24:7) [emphasis added].

Many of our sages have said that hearing is a more powerful sense than even seeing. HaShem manifested Godself visibly, such as being the pillar of fire by night and the pillar of smoke by day. HaShem also was able to be heard, and the people developed fear/awe of directly hearing HaShem. Remember, the famous line ‘Hear O Israel, HaShem is God, HaShem is one’, also known as the ‘shma’, uses this same verb... hearing or listening, not the verb ‘see’.

But the ultimate act of faith is ‘na-aseh v’nishmah’, ‘we will do, and we will hear (listen)’. This idea, of acting at the critical moment, is found throughout the Torah. One of the best examples is the Talmudic story about Nachshon, who had enough faith to enter the sea when the people were all panicked, and when he walked in to the point his nose was underwater, that is the moment the sea split. Here is the verse:

‘HaShem said to Moses, ‘Why do you cry out to Me? Speak to the children of Israel and let them go forward.’ (Exodus [Shmot] 14:15),

(This line of Torah is one of the entry points in Kabbalah, that is defined as a truly powerful message. The message is this: HaShem has put ‘miracles’ into the human realm, and people can usher in miracles thru acts of faith, like what Nachshon did.)

We will do, and we will hear. Logically one would have expected this phrase to be in the reverse order, that ‘we will *hear* and we will *do*’. But it is the opposite. Said another way, **the Israelites agreed to do everything God asked of them, before they even knew what they were agreeing to.**

A better way to understand the word ‘shma’, (hear, or listen), in this context might be better translated as ‘**absorb**’ or ‘**understand**’. Big concepts, such as ‘love’ for example, are really only understood by experiencing it. Getting a PhD in ‘how to love’ doesn’t prepare a person for loving another person, as much as an uneducated person actually loving another person. The concept is really understood thru the experience, thru the ‘doing’. Then, thru the doing one begins to understand.

One of the pleasures of being a grandparent is your children experience being a parent, and the love, time, and effort they freely give to their child, but they are now experiencing it from the parent perspective and not the child. The understanding that the young parents now get, by having their own children, is quite transforming. Taking classes in parenting would not give the same wisdom as the experience of being a parent.

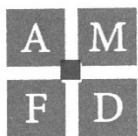
So, in this critical moment in history, when HaShem is sharing revelation, the people, in one voice say, na-aseh, ‘we will do’ (Exodus 24:4). Moses “then took ‘the Book of the Covenant’ and read it for the hearing (ears) of the people and they said Everything that HaShem has spoken **we will do and we will absorb (understand, hear, listen)** (Exodus 24:7).

This Torah insight tells us that the way to really understand a concept is by doing it. As one does, they begin an absorption process which brings understanding. This is true for many things we often take for granted, such as gravity, love, and even understanding God. We understand better as we do more.

Doing, to then understand, not only applies to big concepts, such as God and love, but also to everyday concepts. For example, the making of a ‘blessing’ prior to eating food, or before lighting Shabbat candles, can itself create an understanding of how simple actions can be elevated. Some folks who earnestly do this can immediately sense the spiritual energy that is created, or harnessed. For others it could take time and repeated actions to ‘sense’ this elevation.

May you be blessed in your ‘na-aseh v’nishmah’, ‘we will do and we will understand’.

This Torah Connection was partially inspired by a talk by Dennis Prager, but is the sole responsibility of the author and specifically does NOT necessarily reflect those of the Board of Trustees of CBI, CBI, its membership, Reform Judaism, or Judaism. Please send any comments to the author at: mlwaxer@sbcglobal.net.



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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.

Senior Staff

Bruce Greenbaum - *Rabbi, D.D.*
 Suzanne Guinane – *Cantorial Soloist &
 Director of Education*
 Julie Chase- *Administrator*
 Abby King- *Administrative Assistant/Facility Use
 Coordinator*
 Ruby Cohan-*Bookkeeper*

Board of Trustees

2020-21

Dan Nussbaum, *President*
 Cara Lieb, *Immediate Past President*
 Scott Lyons, *Vice President*
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 Malina Breau, *Fundraising*
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 Sandy Leader, *Interfaith*
 Bob Fenton, *Adult Education*
 Jim Gumberg, *At Large*
 Marshal Blatt, *At Large*
 Ruth Lyons, *Youth Representative*
 Bee Epstein-Shepherd, *Honorary Life Trustee*
 Herb Stern, *Honorary Life Trustee*

Parshiot

March 6, Ki Tisa

T: Exodus 30:11-34:35

H: I Kings 18:1-3

March 13, Vayakhel/Pekude

T: Exodus 35:1-40:38

H: I Kings 7:51-8:21

March 20, Vayikra

T: Leviticus 1:1-5:26

H: Isaiah 43:21-44:23

March 27, Tzav

T: Leviticus 6:1-8:36

**H: Jeremiah 7:21-8:3,
 9:22-23**