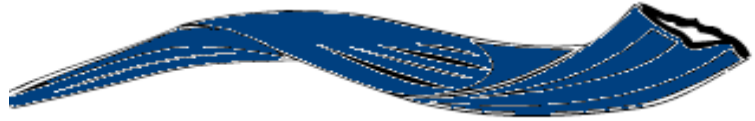


SHOFAR



Monthly Newsletter of the Monterey Peninsula Jewish Community

www.carmelbethisrael.org



From the Rabbi's Desk...

I am not shaking any hands right now. In fact, I am avoiding pretty much all physical contact other than maybe an elbow bump or a toe tap! Even when speaking with people, I am more aware of putting a little distance between me and with whomever I am visiting. Rabbinic teaching informs us that one of the most important Mitzvot is to sustain life. Protecting our health and the health of one another is of primary concern always, but maybe now we need to be even more aware of this Mitzvah.

As I write this, there have been 20 confirmed cases of the corona virus in Monterey County. But from everything that I have read and heard, it is just a matter of time before there are many more cases in our community. According to health experts it is extremely contagious. What makes it more difficult to contain is that people can spread this virus before they show any symptoms or are aware that they have it themselves.

So how should we respond to this virus that is spreading across the globe? The first steps are all simple common sense. While washing hands has always been important, let us double our efforts to keep hands clean. Let's sing the ABCs song with our younger kids as they wash to make sure their hands are soaped and rinsed as well as possible. We should all be more aware of what we are touching whether it is tabletops or handrails or doorknobs. Of course, these are impossible to avoid which means more handwashing! This should remain part of our regular routine long after we have stopped the corona virus. Covering our mouths and noses when coughing or sneezing and separating ourselves from others when we are not healthy is another lesson from our Jewish tradition. "What is hateful to you, do not do to another."

Of course, my hope and prayer is that our community will remain healthy. Following the advice of

our local health authorities we suspended our religious and Hebrew schools and all CBI events. We will remain physically apart until they suggest it is safe to gather together in our building. We will continue to offer Hebrew lessons and B'nai Mitzvah tutoring in virtual settings online. To protect the health of our members we must close our building to any CBI gatherings for the immediate future. Even our community Passover Seder is now canceled. I plan on leading a Shabbat evening meditation and prayer online in a zoom room format that you can join at 7:30 PM. The zoom room connection will be sent out to all our members. I promise no sermons so it should last about 50 minutes every Friday evening.

As your rabbi, I will do what I can to continue to serve our membership. I suspect my cell phone will need to be recharged twice a day. We might even visit using a video chat service. While not ideal, interaction will continue and whatever support I can offer will be given. While some gatherings might be much smaller, and might not take place in our building, most life cycle events will continue. Celebrations might be smaller for a while, but we will still celebrate.

While much of this message has focused on the need to close our doors for a while, my main message is one of community. Whether we are together in person or not, we must still support one another.

From Exodus 25:8 we read "Let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them." Whether we are in our building or not, God is with us. During these challenging and scary times, let us use our Godliness to support ourselves and those around us. Each of us is part of the House of Israel (Beth Israel). Let us continue to live as one strong family, while we are forced to be apart, and when we are able to come together. Amen.

BE SAFE



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

Our Jewish Stories: Susan & Richard Platt

As told by Richard Platt: Like so much of Jewish life, our story begins with food. It was the search for corned beef that propelled Susan to CBI's Jewish Food Festival in the summer of 2013, just after we moved here. She came home in tears. Not because of the corned beef, which was excellent, but because God had reached into her heart. The instrument God chose was Cantor Alisa.

Susan sat down with her sandwich, expecting to listen to Jewish folk music. Then Alisa walked onto the stage. She began singing the ancient songs, the holy songs that are the beating heart of the Jewish People. Something deep, powerful, and very old, welled up inside Susan, and she began to cry. She is not a woman prone to tears.

She told me what had happened, and that she needed to follow wherever this awakening might lead her. She began regularly attending services at CBI, until one day she said she wanted to convert to Judaism and asked me how I felt about it. I was a baptized and confirmed Catholic. I told her that her happiness was my happiness, that anything that brought her to a deeper and more loving relationship with God was fine with me, and that she had my complete and unconditional support. I started going to services with her.

Susan and I shared her journey for almost three years. She began learning Hebrew. She attended Rabbi Bruce's classes on Jewish beliefs, values, and ethics, bringing home required reading lists for books that I read beside her, because I was interested, and because this journey was so obviously fulfilling for her. I wanted to help her, to talk about this faith that had become so central to her life. Her conversion ceremony was one of the most joyful events of our lives.

But God was not finished with us; or at least, not with me. It is a wondrous thing that when we act for the good of others, with no thought of ourselves, untold gifts await us. I had attended many services at CBI, following along with the prayers and liturgy as best I could. I was struck by how much of a Jewish service could be inserted into a Catholic service without anyone detecting the splice. This really

should not have surprised me, as Judaism is foundational to Catholicism, but seeing the hard reality before my eyes was another matter. The reading I had been doing with Susan was taking hold. I began to reconsider Christianity itself.

There was a deep irony to my dilemma. I was not merely a Christian but a published Christian apologist. It was a deeper irony still that my little book, *As One Devil to Another*, which explores the way evil works in the modern world, has always found its most appreciative readers among Jews. God was having a good laugh at my expense.

I had for some time been feeling like an intellectual fraud. I realized that, in my heart, I had never really made the affirmations required of a Christian at all. I was a nominal Christian; a Christian merely because of my admiration for the great teachers from whom I had learned. Yet the only reason anybody should believe anything is because they think it's true. I could no longer defend what I said I believed, and if you can't defend your beliefs, you don't have beliefs worth holding. All of the things I knew to be true in Christianity—that there was one God, that He loved love and hated hatred and that His chief concern was ethical behavior—were the things that had been lifted from the Jews. The beliefs I struggled with in Christianity were absent from Judaism. At last, I had to admit to myself that there was a name for the body of belief that I could both accept and defend. That name was Judaism. It was with the Jews I had been standing all along. Thus, I was brought to my own formal conversion on January 31st of this year, an action that was as natural as breathing.

Converting did not feel like a transformation for me or for Susan at all. It felt more like a homecoming. It was a celebration, of the home we have found, of the friends we have made, of the community we cherish. It is with the Jews we belong. May we always be worthy of the legacy and mantle of the Jewish People.





Caring Community Support

During this time when many of our older members should be, for health reasons, staying in their homes, some

might need assistance with shopping or some basic needs.

Please call the office at 831-624-2015 if:

1. You need assistance. (Shopping, a ride to the doctor...)
2. You are willing to assist people in our community who need a little help.



Opening Weekend of CJFF

A Huge Success

We were headed for record attendance when our film festival opened on March 7 and 8. Michael Bernardi wowed us along with Alisa Fineman, Reg Huston, and Pauline Troia as the audience enjoyed several musical numbers following the film *Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles*. The beautiful reception prepared by Betzi Grogin and Betsy Stone was magnificent.

On March 8, we were treated to violinist Cookie Segelstein who told stories about Eastern European Klezmer music while she played on one of the Violins of Hope. Film-goers were able to see some of the Violins of Hope up close at a display in the lobby. Shelagh Baseman organized a lovely reception, and the Winicks hosted a special post-event donor reception at their home. All events were well-received and well-attended, despite encroaching unease about gatherings.

At this point we thought we could keep the festival going through the next weekend, and local health officials were still giving us the green light. That suddenly changed and we sadly announced that we were postponing the rest of the festival after showing of *The Keeper* and *93 Queen*.

Thank you to all the CJFF board and committee, volunteers, sponsors, and partners for all your time, hard work, and support. **As soon as life returns to normal, we will continue the festival and look forward to seeing all of you.** All of our filmmakers, panelists, and special guests are eager to join us just as soon as new dates are determined. Of course, all previously purchased tickets will be honored.

Stay safe and well,
Susan and Marsha
CJFF 2020 co-chairs

Lunch with the Rabbi



Join Rabbi Greenbaum this month on **Thursday, April 2 at noon** online as he leads a virtual discussion on "The Coronavirus: A Sensible Response." What steps should we take as individuals, as a congregation, as a community to protect ourselves

from this potentially deadly virus? When if ever is it necessary to put our personal needs before the needs of the community? When does community health take precedence over religious observance?

Let's sit in our homes and on our computers discuss, question and debate these issues. Enjoy your lunch that you prepared for yourself. 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





Virtual Chavurah Gatherings

While we cannot get together physically, we can still spend time together online. Your Chavurah can still meet! All it takes is one

member of your Chavurah to pick a time and send out an email Zoom invitation to all other Chavurah members. I heard one group talking about holding a “Shmooze and Booze” hour. Each member of the Chavurah will pick their favorite drink (wine, beer, juice, milk...) and enjoy a glass or two while visiting on line with the other Chavurah members. Zoom meetings are easy to set up. It is free for meetings that last under 40 minutes. Call Rabbi Greenbaum if you need assistance setting this up. You can also pick a topic to discuss, a book to review, or just relax and visit with each other from the comfort of your own homes. Let’s continue to be together, even when we have to be apart!



Put Yourself on Mute, and Other Tips for a Virtual Seder

How to celebrate Passover when you’re on lockdown. An amusing take by Andrew Silow-Carrol

“As this modern-day plague reaches biblical proportions, a virtual seder has its virtues. Just as congregations, schools and offices assemble online, we can celebrate via videoconference. Skype, Zoom, Google Hangouts and other apps can enable people to share the holiday safely and meaningfully ...”

— ReformJudaism.org

Passover is going to feel very different this year, for regrettable reasons. But we here at JPray.org, your one-stop shop for new Jewish rituals, are here to help. We will walk you through all the steps for your first “Virtual Seder,” from how to set up Zoom to how to kick people out of the “meeting” without seeming rude.

First, let’s recall everything you will need on the seder table: shank bone, egg, bitter herbs, karpas, charoset, Elijah’s Cup, a Windows or Apple computer with speakers and a microphone and if you want to be especially stringent a Logitech HD ConferenceCam.

Next, let’s think about the invite list. Why is this night’s guest list different from all the other guest lists? On all other seder nights it’s you, the kids, Grandma, Uncle Mike and Aunt Carol and their kids, and that couple from Grandma’s old neighborhood that have been coming for the past 20 years and no one really remembers why. On this night, however, Grandma is sheltering in place, Mike and Carol are under quarantine and that couple are apparently emergency room physicians who will be on call during the holiday. Who knew?

Since it’s just you and the kids, set up your laptop at the head of the table. According to halacha, the virtual guests deserve a place of honor; and according to my user manual, that’s the best place in the house to get Wifi. Consult your local techie.

We recommend setting up a plate, silverware and wine glass in front of the screen. Depending on the quality of your in-screen camera, these do not have to be your best china or silverware. Or even very clean. But why take any chances?

As the start of the seder approaches, your guests should be joining the videoconference via the invitation you sent earlier. In theory. In practice this is the time to call and remind Grandma, email Carol and Mike and text each of their kids.

At this point, all of your guests should be visible on screen. You should also be able to see inside Grandma’s ear. Gently remind her to take the device away from her head and look into the camera. Ah, there we are!

According to our council of rabbinical sages, this also is the time for reminding people of one of the important mitzvot of this Virtual Seder: “Please put yourself on mute.” This is especially important if you have multiple guests on Zoom. This injunction may also be followed by the important reminder, “Mute is the little microphone in the corner of the screen. Just click it. The microphone. Carol, the microphone!”

And let us say, Amen.

Now the leader of the seder raises the wine glass, but not before someone on the screen says “Louder” and someone else tries raising an important point without unmuting themselves.

Normally at this time someone walks around with a jug and dishtowel and everyone ceremoniously washes their hands. This year, everyone will be ushered into the utility room where you have set up a bottle of Sloan ESD-231 Antibacterial Hand Soap in the 800 ml Bottle and a stack of Cosmoss Disposable US Grade 100% Cotton Single-Use Linen Hand Towels. This hand-washing is known as urchatz, which is Aramaic for “20 seconds, at least.”

Continued on page 6



Aleynu Teen Students' Writings on Rosh Chodesh –

Cantor Alisa Fineman

Our Aleynu teens have entered their 3rd and final trimester this year, focusing on Jewish teachings about the relationship between humans (earthlings) and the earth-- *Bein Adam v'Adamah*. It follows two enriching trimesters of studying Mussar with inspired teacher Bari Tolliver and our classes continue to spark lively and open discussion in an atmosphere of safety where students share freely, deepening bonds and friendships.

The following writings are in response to a class session on *Rosh Chodesh* teachings, songs and guided visualizations with guest speaker Rabbi Leah Novick. I am forever in awe of our students' desire to learn, their curiosity, imagination and creativity. They display a capacity for deep reflection and thought while learning to make Jewish prayers, values and rituals their own. What a joy and privilege it was for our teens to welcome Rabbi Leah Novick to our table. They learned more than we imagined, shedding new light for us on the meaning of Rosh Chodesh, its relevance and potential in our own lives.

Going Outside to Look for the Moon

Going outside to look for the moon, the scent of nature and the cool breeze refreshed and renewed me. The sliver of the moon provides relief from the indoors and has a calming effect on the mind. Nature and fresh air, the soft wind on the skin, are a welcome relief from the hot, stagnant air of inside. When the moon is new, it is renewed, and whole again. When I go outside to look for the moon, I am too.

-- Noah Telford 9th Grade

Moon Thoughts

The moon is always there, even when you cannot see it—
a constant in life, like air and water
lit up, only by the sun's reflection, beautiful beyond compare.

Yet the moon is often overlooked and taken for granted—

A thing so powerful that it pulls on the tides—
drawing back water and making waves crash on to the shore.

Does that mean the moon pulls on me too?

In many ways the moon is like us—

a solitary being, just minding its own business with a shining personality,
allowing us to marvel from afar, or explore up close its skin
and craters made by something it once loved or hated,
vulnerable to the universe,
finding a friend in everyone that pauses to look up and see it.

For the moon is amazing and is whatever you want it to be!

The moon is always there, even when you cannot see it.

-- Claire Blatt 8th Grade

Rosh Chodesh and Tshuvah

When I think of my family, I think of the harm I have caused through words.

With the *New Moon*, I have the chance to forgive myself.

When I think of my friends, I think of the harm I have caused them verbally and through physicality.

With the *New Moon*, I have the chance to forgive myself.

When I think of my pets, I think of the harm I have caused to them both physically and verbally.

With the *New Moon*, I have the chance to forgive myself.

And as the moon goes 'round and 'round, we return, again and again.

-- Ryan Dicus 9th Grade

Continued from page 4

Brightest One

Brightest one,

May you be the *mishkan* of my reflections,
the sleepless star that watches,
the bright flame of guidance.

-- Grace Dean 12th Grade

Continued from page 4

As you break the first matzah, please try to remember that this was the bread of affliction that the Israelites ate as they fled Egypt. Do NOT envy the Israelites, who had to endure hardships under a cruel Pharaoh but at least they got fresh air and they could get together with their fellow Hebrews once in a while, even if just to make bricks. This is not the message of Passover!

Next, the youngest person at the table recites The Four Questions. You may supplement the traditional four questions with any of your own. This year's suggestions include, "When can we go back to work?" "Will this ever end?" "Let's say I get a tickle in my throat, do I get the test or wait it out?" and "When did I become a math teacher? Home schooling sucks."

The traditional seder asks us to drink four cups of wine. However, since you have already been doing this every night since the outbreak, you must now at least pretend it's extra special.

Now you come to the recitation of the plagues that befell Egypt. You are free to note the irony, and maybe even feel for the poor Egyptians in a way you never did before. After blinking back tears, continue in the Haggadah until you get to...

The Festive Meal. The serving of the meal should be accompanied with a recitation of the ordeal it took to buy Passover products while under lockdown. Do not forget to include the length of the line at the supermarket, the sanitary wipes you brought to wipe down the cart, and how hard it was for you to order curbside delivery from Shop-and-Drop.

The seder is nearly done. If you haven't paid for the premium version of Zoom, your guests signed off hours ago. But in case they are still on, finish reciting the Birkat Hamazon and Hallel, raise your glass and say, "Next year in Jerusalem. Or Carmel. Or Monterey — anywhere but stuck at home!" *See our Passover recipes on page 11*



COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Message to college applicants:

CBI believes that scholarship opportunities are important for students, even (and especially) in these stressful times. We are making some adjustments to ensure that everyone who is eligible has an opportunity to apply.

Please keep in mind that the deadline is still **April 15, 2020 at 4:00 PM**. All application packets must be received by this time.

Due to our "Shelter in Place" situation we have adjusted some of the requirements and instructions for submittals:

1. We understand that transcripts may be difficult to obtain at this time. If you are unable to include an official and sealed transcript, we will accept the following unofficial transcript substitutions:
 - a. PDF transcript from you school
 - b. Copies of your transcript from your online account (should you have one)
 - c. Copies of your high school report cards, not progress reports, beginning with your Freshman year through the Fall of your Senior year.
2. A photo is not required (although they are encouraged)
3. Please send your completed packets to Debbie Winick (NOT to CBI) via:
 - a. Email at: winick.debbie@gmail.com
 - b. Mail (to arrive by April 15, 2020):
25749 Morse Drive, Carmel, CA 93923

If you have any questions or concerns about how to provide any of the required information, please contact Debbie via phone or text at 831-241-1415.

We have updated the online application with the above changes. The link to the updated application is https://carmelbethisrael.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/67/2020/01/College_scholarship_application_rev_2020.pdf



CBI Continues its Social Action Commitments

CBI Social Action Team and Activities

Ongoing social action efforts include to the monthly men's I-HELP meals, the quarterly women's I-HELP meals, periodic food drives benefiting local food banks, ongoing electronics donations, with refurbishing by Loaves, Fishes and Computers, and numerous other efforts.

CBI's Social Action Team is now in the planning stages of the merry, merry "Mitzvah Month" of May. 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 to help our community and do so much more that matches our

interests and availability. Please contact me! We are meeting virtually! A good way to stay in touch and reduce isolation.

Hosting Men's & Women's I-HELP

The men's program now averages 21 men. Five new men joined us, two men found housing, and two left the program. Eight of the men are currently working, including two who have new jobs.

The March 1st meal at CBI was sponsored by the Aleynu youth group and religious school madrichem, and their parents. A special thank you to Michael Marshall for spearheading the effort and to the following families for their support; Marshall, Schmidt, Dicus, Lyons, Dean, Lyons, Goldberg and Rosenthal, Greenbaum, Riddel-Kaufman and Schuss. The men enjoyed roast chicken, pastas, sautéed green beans, potato salad, Caesar salad, fruit salad and garlic bread with chocolate chip cake for dessert. It was, once again, a wonderful evening and the men asked that we share their gratefulness and sincere appreciation with the congregation.

Because many congregations are closed and in the interests of health safety, the Men's I-HELP will be housed at the First Presbyterian Church of Monterey until further notice. CBI is scheduled to feed the Men's I-HELP guests on Sunday April 4, and the Lambourne Institute for Life Mastery will partner on providing food, which will be dropped off at the location.

As well, the Women's I-HELP is being housed by the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula, and this meal on Monday, March 30th is also sponsored by CBI in partnership with The Lambourne Institute for Life Mastery. Please contact Arlene Krebs to help contribute. We are also asking for cards, magazines, pocket games and puzzles to help our guests with forms of entertainment.

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



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-on to Petra, Jordan! Don't miss this fabulous opportunity.

If our trip needs to be postponed, we will travel next year! Please join us.



THANK YOU!!

General Endowment

Beth Cort in memory of Dan Cort

Cantorial Restricted

Matthew Schuss & Charlene Webber-Schuss

In honor of Alisa Fineman

Michael & Debora Waxer in honor of Zach
(Nachum) Waxer's Aliyah to Kiryat Arba,
Judea, Israel

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Barry R. Harrow

Religious School Scholarship Fund

Matthew Schuss & Charlene Webber-Schuss
In honor of Louis Riddell Kaufman

The Latest Carmel Jewish Film Festival

Sponsors

Laura Arnow

Marshal & Angelica Blatt

David A. Cohen

Ronnie Alvarez

Betty Wilson

Dan Luba

Natalia Lipkina

David Goldberg, M. D. & Kerri Goldberg

Jim Gumberg & Nina Patane

Lewis A. & Sandra Leader

Samuel & Beryl Levinger

Alexander Lujbimow & Maryn Ljubimow

Clark Miller & Cara Lieb

Susan Schwartz

Bari Tolliver

The Latest Carmel Jewish Film Festival

Donations

Rosemary Lande in honor of the Carmel
Jewish Film Festival

Cele Passin

Lester Tockerman

General Donations

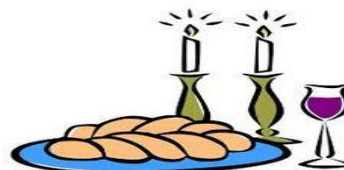
Ellyn Gelson in honor of March Birthdays and
Anniversaries

Kevin Kaufman

Thomas & Ellen G. Krause In loving memory
of Tom's mother Claire Krause

Victor & Sylvia Krimsley In loving memory of
Malcolm Krimsley.

Sarita Chavez Silverman in memory of J.H.
Silverman



Thank You to Our Oneg Hosts

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




February 28: Laura Arnow hosting with Alex
& Galena Bordetsky who hosted in memory of
Galena's father David Mellimevker and her
uncle Ezekiel Mellimevker

March 6: Myrna Brandwein hosted in loving
memory of her mother Lillian Kessler.

March 13: CBI hosting in honor of and
appreciation for the Kolinsky family.



Congregation Beth Israel
April 2020
Nisan ~ Iyar 5780

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All of CBI's scheduled services are tentative and dependent upon required operating guidelines from local/state/federal health authorities due to the current national health emergency.	We are scheduling online Erev Shabbat Services and Torah study in lieu of physical services at this time and will keep you posted should we be able to resume physical services.		1	2 7:15 PM Virtual Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	3  Traditions 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services (Virtual unless otherwise announced)	4 9:00 AM Morning Shabbat Service & Study (Virtual unless otherwise announced)
5	6	7 1st Seder 	8 Passover No Community Seder	9 Passover	10 Passover 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services (Virtual unless otherwise announced)	11 Passover 10:30 AM Torah Study (Virtual unless otherwise announced)
12 Intermediate Day	13 Intermediate Day	14 Intermediate Day	15 Passover	16 7:15 PM Virtual Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class Yizkor Passover	17 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services (Virtual unless otherwise announced)	18 10:30 AM Torah Study (Virtual unless otherwise announced)
19 Tentative 9:30 AM Religious School All Grades	20	21 6:30 PM Executive Committee- Virtual	22 Tentative 4:00 PM B'nai Mitzvah 4:30 PM Hebrew School 6:00 PM Aleynu	23	24  <i>Shabbat Shalom!</i> 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services (Virtual unless otherwise announced)	25 10:30 AM Torah Study (Virtual unless otherwise announced)
26 Tentative 9:30 AM Religious School All Grades	27	28 7:15 PM Board of Trustees Meet- Virtual	29 Tentative 4:00 PM B'nai Mitzvah 4:30 PM Hebrew School	30 7:15 PM Virtual Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	1 May 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services (Virtual unless otherwise announced)	2

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Andrew Lipsig	1
Gabriela Lipsky	1
Terrence Gargiulo	2
Joshua Kosmont	2
Jason Togneri	3
Ally Carroll	4
Jana Stiebel	4
Bill Pardue	5
Angelika Lipow	7
Eli'Noar Lipow	7
Michael Leavy	9
Julie Chase	11
Myles Dau	11
Poppy Dau	11
David Kolinsky	11
Marshal Blatt	13
Larry Solow	13
Abra Teitler	14
Vivi Fenwick	15
Richard Kreitman	16

Barry Rund	16
Elizabeth Grogin	17
Michael Newton	17
Barbara Mitchell	18
Dena Weber	20
Arina Ganeles	21
Pauline Troia	21
Robert Fenton	22
Ruthie Pack	22
Rizal Baguio	23
Elizabeth Heff	23
Francesca Kolinsky	23
Rory Lakind	23
Mitchel Winick	23
Gary Simon	24
Peter Levin	25
David Schnitzer	26
Brian Ellinoy	27
Makayla Schnitzer	28
Susan Rosen	29
Alison Baguio	30

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Family News

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Thomas & Ellen G. Krause	11
Bill Pardue & Barbara Mitchell	13
Matthew Schuss & Charlene Webber-Schuss	18
Stephen & Ida Holber	24
Robert & Chinanit Kershner	26
Senen & Alison Baguio	30
Daniel & Louise Riddell-Kaufman	30

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



Fudgy Chocolate-Walnut Cookies for Passover

makes twelve 4-inch cookies

Ingredients:

- 2 3/4 cups walnut halves (9 ounces)
- 3 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1/2 cup plus 3 tablespoons unsweetened Dutch-process cocoa powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 4 large egg whites, at room temperature
- 1 tablespoon pure vanilla extract

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350°. Position 2 racks in the upper and lower thirds of the oven. Line 2 large rimmed baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. Spread the walnut halves on a large rimmed baking sheet and toast in the oven for about 9 minutes, until they are golden and fragrant. Let cool slightly, then transfer the walnut halves to a work surface and finely chop them.
3. In a large bowl, whisk the confectioners' sugar with the cocoa powder and salt. Whisk in the chopped walnuts. Add the egg whites and vanilla extract and beat just until the batter is moistened (be careful not to overbeat or it will stiffen). Spoon the batter onto the baking sheets in 12 evenly spaced mounds.
4. Bake the cookies for about 20 minutes, until the tops of the cookies are glossy and lightly cracked and feel firm to the touch; shift the pans from front to back and top to bottom halfway through.
5. Slide the parchment paper (with the cookies) onto 2 wire racks to cool completely before serving. The cookies can be stored in an airtight container for up to 3 days.



Mexican Chocolate Pots de Crème

Serves : 6

Mexican chocolate, which is flavored with ingredients like cinnamon, almonds and vanilla, lends a distinct flavor to this rich custard. Look for it at Mexican markets, specialty-food stores, or online.

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups whole milk
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 6 large egg yolks
- 6 ounces Mexican chocolate, preferably Ibarra, finely chopped
- 6 ounces bittersweet chocolate, finely chopped, plus shavings for garnish
- Unsweetened whipped cream, for serving

Directions:

1. In a medium saucepan, combine the whole milk with the heavy cream and bring to a simmer over moderately high heat.
2. In a small bowl, beat the egg yolks until combined. Slowly whisk in 1/2 cup of the hot milk, then transfer the mixture to the saucepan. Cook the custard over moderate heat, whisking constantly, until it is slightly thickened, about 2 minutes. Immediately add the finely chopped Mexican and bittersweet chocolate and remove the saucepan from the heat. Stir until the chocolate is completely melted, then strain the mixture through a fine sieve into a large glass measuring cup or bowl. Pour the chocolate mixture into 6 small bowls and refrigerate until the pots de crème are chilled, at least 6 hours or overnight. Serve the pots de crème with unsweetened whipped cream and chocolate shavings.

Make Ahead

The pots de crème can be refrigerated for up to 3 days.

CBI Religious School



A Letter From From Louise Riddle- Kaufman

Dear Families,
I hope this finds your currently (and continuing to be) healthy. As you are aware, Religious School

and Hebrew School are closed until at least the end of Spring Break. We hope to reopen on April 19 and be able to complete the school year together.

We are concerned about our students and their families continuing to feel connected in a time of isolation. We are reaching out with ways to check-in, connect with each other and continue to learn together. Virtual learning can take many forms including video conferencing on a one-on-one basis for Hebrew tutoring or as a class for discussions or a Storytime. Shared online bulletin boards where students can communicate their thoughts or share individual research or photos, or artwork are another venue. There is more “homework” on an individual and family basis to be shared through these online formats. Your student is likely to need your assistance with the digital format, scheduling the time to learn, or completing the individuated assignments. Please keep your eyes out for the emails from your child’s teachers and respond accordingly. We are in a unique time that calls upon extra efforts and creativity to continue moving toward our educational goals. I ask that you work with us to support your child’s Jewish learning as we take this journey together.

We are a community, and times of crisis call upon us to be there for each other. Let us know if you are struggling and how we can assist you. Please reach out to others in your child’s class for virtual playdates and story times as well as check-ins and general support. Let’s show how much we care about each other.

Stay well & B’Shalom,
Louise Riddell-Kaufman, RJE, MARE
Director of Education



Honoring our High School Students

Join us on **Friday, April 24 for our 7:30 virtual service**) as we recognize and honor many of our high school students and their achievements. Any graduating students attending will receive a special blessing. Juniors will be recognized for their participation in our Aleynu and Madrichim programs. Please join us for an inspiring evening as we support our youth for maintaining their connection with the Jewish community.



Jewish Family Ideas – April 2020

We are living in a strange time. Connections with each other are primarily “virtual” rather than in-person. Part of the daily challenge of caring for ourselves and our children is to discover new ways of staying occupied in a constructive manner.

Here are some resources to explore together:

- [PJ Library Resources for Quarantined Families](https://pjlibrary.org/familyactivities?fbclid=IwAR2ocLhPaou4vF91H32r3L9ZErtZzq2MbneFrRjh0erpFH1g-yivpADz8I),
<https://pjlibrary.org/familyactivities?fbclid=IwAR2ocLhPaou4vF91H32r3L9ZErtZzq2MbneFrRjh0erpFH1g-yivpADz8I>
- Virtual visits to art museums and other famous locations
<https://artsandculture.google.com/?hl=en>
- Storyline online,
<https://www.storylineonline.net/>, stories read by the Screen Actors Guild. The visuals include illustrations from the book and written captions of the story. some PJ Library books included in the choices.
- The [PJ Library Facebook page](#) is hosting a daily schedule of live readings, craft demonstrations and sing-a-longs, virtual field trips, and more for kids. We’ll also offer

Continued from page 12

resources and activities for housebound parents. Please check it out; we update it often.

In our “normal” lives we often complain about not having enough time to be together or to do a multitude of tasks around the house. Think of this as an opportunity to:

- Cook together - baking, making dinner, special snacks. Good family time and even a math lesson or two.
- Play family games including “name that tune” or charades
- Do a jigsaw puzzle together
- Clean out closets and cabinets
- Make photo albums online (your kids can help with this)
- Take a virtual vacation
 - set up a tent in the living room and go “camping”
 - put on swim suits, snorkels, and fins, make fish props to go living room “diving.”
 - make props and take movies of “vacation”
 - write postcards

This is a particularly hard time for those who live alone. Please reach out to those you know are alone or need your support (Rabbi Greenbaum has names if there is not someone in your life).

- Call them. Sing together. Read stories
- Send cards, drawings, photos
- Ask them about their childhood and take notes
- Share recipes - cook the same dish and virtually eat together!

Don’t forget your CBI community:

- Erev Shabbat Services at the regular time - 7:30 on Friday night (look for this week’s link in your email)
- Respond to Religious and Hebrew School teachers to connect with classes online.

Let us know if you have needs or concerns. We are here for you and our whole community. Stay well.



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Torah **Connections:**

Torah Connections:
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Michael Waxer

Reconciling the irreconcilable

A good friend asked me, ‘**How do the Jewish people view God who permits evil to occur in this world?**’ Wow, and I thought we would just be meeting for lunch. But, actually, I understand the Torah as giving us insight to these impossible questions.

Many folks choose to limit their reading and understanding of the Torah to the literal, which is unfortunate as our Jewish sages gave us the **PaRDeS** system, which gives us specific tools to learn Torah. In this system of increasingly powerful methods of understanding, the first level is the Pshat, meaning *literal*, level of understanding. But there is so much more.

The Torah teaches us that each human has a physical existence, but also a spiritual soul (called the *neshama*). Even though the things we do in this physical world seem like that is all there is, our Jewish sages tell us that there is a much bigger reality.

A key teaching from the Torah, when studied at deeper levels, is that our purpose in this life is to spiritually develop, and to help others do the same.

Humans have a tremendous capacity to do good or evil. God (HaShem) set up a system for our souls to be able to develop, and the key to doing that is via our physical existence. Making choices each day, including the very simple things such as choosing to not eat the forbidden animals, elevating Shabbat to help make it a holy day, the giving of charity (tzedakha).... these choices and these actions have a big impact on our *neshama*, our soul development.

We cannot fully understand why God did or didn’t intervene when humans have chosen to do evil, both in each of our lives and throughout history. The Torah tells us:

“The secret things belong to HaShem, our God; but the things that are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”

(Deuteronomy [*Devarim*] 29:29).

We are also told:

“See, I have set before you this day the life and the good, and the death and the evil.”, and,

“I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you the life and the death, the blessing and the curse; therefore choose life, that you may live, you and your descendants.” (Deuteronomy [*Devarim*] 30:15 and 30:19).

We are faced with hundreds of decisions each day, decisions that can either elevate us or diminish us. Does it seem so hard to believe? First, that we have an immortal soul. Second, that there is something more to why we are here beyond just our physical existence. Third, that we are here for a reason. Fourth, that there is a creator who cares about us and wants us to develop both physically and spiritually. Fifth, that not everything that happens to us is going to make sense... that there are things that exist outside of the rational, and these suprarational ideas help us to have *emunah* (faith), which is one of the many tools God has given us to help us on this journey.

If one has faith, and can recognize this bigger picture, spiritual growth can be enhanced and spread with other souls (people). God asks us to be a holy nation and to be a light unto the nations. God wants us to choose life. This has both a physical manifestation but also a *spiritual impact*. Spiritual life, primarily, is what is being talked about when God tells us to choose life.

The millions of Jews (and other good people) who have been wrongly murdered over the generations, whose physical lives were cut short, ***these souls might be prospering in the spiritual/God universe***. This is one possible answer to the unknowable, of why God allows evil in this world, and why evil may befall a good person in this physical world.

Even though God created a system that allows us to make great or terrible choices, ***our purpose in this world is to choose the good, choose to learn about the mitzvot, choose the blessings, choose life (physical, but also spiritual)!***

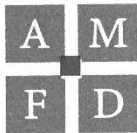
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Parshiot

April 4, Tzav

T: Leviticus 6:1-8:36

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

April 11, Passover

Shabbat

T: Exodus 33:12-34:26

H: Ezekiel 36:37-37:14

April 18, Shemini

T: Leviticus 9:1-11:47

H: II Samuel 6:1-7:17

April 25, Tazria, Metzora

T: Leviticus 12:1-15:33

H: II Kings 4:42 – 5:19