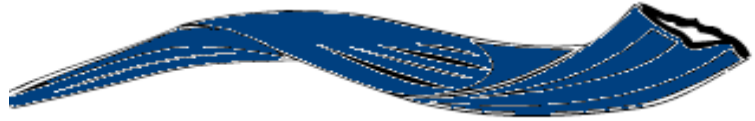


SHOFAR



Monthly Newsletter of the Monterey Peninsula Jewish Community

www.carmelbethisrael.org



Jewish Things To Do While We Are All At Home

While we are all sheltered-in-place many Jewish groups are providing entertaining and educational activities and ideas online. In addition to all the new CBI programming here are some other great resources:

- **My Jewish Learning**
<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/>
In addition to food, prayer and study information there is a Daily Guide to Zoom Events, Livestreams and Other Online Resources for all ages.
- **Tablet**
<https://www.tabletmag.com/>
Tablet is a daily online magazine of Jewish news, ideas, and culture.
- **Kveller**
<https://www.kveller.com/>
Kveller is a great site for parents raising Jewish children.
- **Reform Judaism.org**
<https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-life/health-wellness/25-jewish-things-do-under-quarantine>
25 Jewish Things to Do Under Quarantine
- **Various Podcasts with Jewish Topics**
<https://www.tabletmag.com/podcasts>
<https://reformjudaism.org/blog/2020/03/23/6-jewish-podcasts-listen-right-now>
<https://momentmag.com/top-ten-jewish-podcasts/>

The Canadian Jewish News has a list of recommended films available on various streaming services:

***Foreign Letters* (J-flix.com)**

***In Search of Israeli Cuisine* (Prime Video)**

***Noodle* (J-flix.com)**

***Black Mitzvah* (Netflix)**

***Jerusalem ER* (JVOD.ca)**

***Zero Motivation* (Kanopy)**

***Every Face Has a Name* (J-flix.com)**

***The Devil Next Door* (Netflix)**

Information on all these films is available here:

<https://www.cjnews.com/culture/entertainment/jewish-movies-you-should-stream-while-self-isolating>

Have you read, seen, heard, or done something interesting while sheltered-in-place? Send your experiences and recommendations to us and we'll include them in our weekly emails.

shalomcbi@aol.com





From the Rabbi's Desk...

Meditation is helping. Daily exercise has also been a comfort during these trying times. So many of us are frustrated with this ongoing requirement to shelter in place and to practice safe distancing. It is not easy

to follow all the restrictions week after week. And while there seems to be a slow easing of some of these restrictive rules, still fear remains from the threat of Covid-19 and what harm it can cause. Some of our members have already lost loved ones to this dreaded virus. As I write this, thankfully, none of our members have shared with me that they have personally had the virus. Yet still, it does impact all our lives and will probably continue to do so in one fashion or another for some time.

It might be a result of these new challenges that I find a growing level of frustration and more tension within our community. In meetings I have attended over the phone or online, people are more aggressive or insensitive to others. After one particularly difficult CBI meeting I received over a dozen emails and phone calls complaining about other CBI members.

May I encourage all of us to take a deep breath and remember that we all care about our community and congregation. A recent example of possible community conflict stemmed from different ideas about how best to use the \$200,000 grant we received from the Cal OES to increase CBI security. We should all celebrate that we have this opportunity to improve our building's safety and the security of those who join us. You and I might not agree if we should spend more of this grant on armed guards or on lighting or on better locks, or window coating, but we agree that we want CBI to be a safe place for everyone. We agree that we want only what is best for our children and all our members. Instead of looking at the areas where we disagree, I encourage all of us to focus on where we can unite and work together.

There is so much godliness in the actions our congregants are taking to assist one another. A few members invited children to create pieces of art to give to those who might need an uplifting message. These were mailed to me and I have already distributed a couple dozen of these wonderful

creations. Some younger members are shopping for our older members who either cannot get to the store or should not go because of their health issues. A small group has called many of our members just to check-in and make sure everyone is okay. These little acts of kindness might not be noticed by most of us but do make a huge positive impact for those who can use a little assistance.

None of us can predict how long we will have to practice social distancing. The new normal might require waving instead of handshakes. Friendly kisses will be shared only with immediate family members. Who knows when we will sit side by side in our sanctuary pews? Meanwhile more phone calls, more online visits, and more mailed letters (I encourage more handwritten letters these days!) will help us be together even when we are apart. I find it interesting that more people are joining us on Zoom for our Friday night services than have regularly come to the sanctuary in the past. Maybe it is easier to join Sabbath services when one doesn't have to drive or dress up.

Please let me know how I can better serve as your rabbi during this time of social separation. No I will not come and sit with you in your home, but we can talk on the phone, or visit face to face on line, or even sit outside, behind the congregation, as long as we remain at least 6 feet apart. Our congregation is a place of prayer, a place of learning, and a place for social gathering. I pray together we do all three of these—praying, learning, and gathering—in a healthy way in the weeks and months ahead. Amen.





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

Spotlight on the Membership Pledge System

As we come to the close of another fiscal year, it's a natural time to reflect on the financial health of our Congregation, especially in light of the uncertainties presented to us by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are completing the third year of our pledge-system approach to membership, and I am pleased to report to you about its success.

First, some history: We switched from charging dues to requesting pledges from members in order to create a welcoming and inclusive spirit of Congregational membership. Your pledge is built on the biblical concept of *terumah*, or gift of the heart—from your heart to the heart of the Jewish community. Each member is asked to give what they can, as their spirit and financial situations dictate. This approach enables us to attract younger people and families with young children—the future of our congregation and the Jewish people—who may not be able to pay as much now as they will be in the future. By establishing this system, we live into one of our Core Values: Our doors are open to all who seek the guidance of our Jewish faith. And it creates an overall culture of generosity, where members know that all contributions of whatever amount are welcomed and appreciated.

To help members know how best to support the congregation, the Board created a Sustaining Contribution. This amount represents each family's share of the costs of running CBI, if everyone contributed equally. It's calculated by dividing CBI's expenses for the year by the number of members, and is adjusted for families and for single members. If everyone could contribute exactly what they are asked, our budget would balance. We ask you to use this number to guide your contribution. Those who are able to give more will balance out those who are not able to give as much at this time.

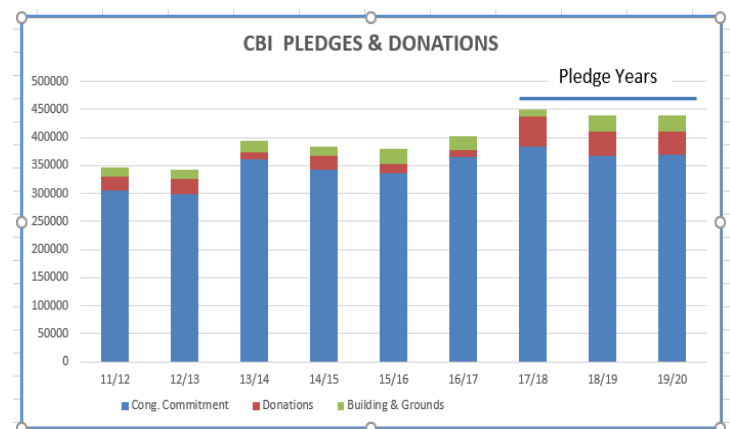
Of course, in addition to creating openness, diversity, and inclusion, the approach must be fiscally sound. After all, our congregation must thrive financially if we are to continue our spiritual mission. The results have been gratifying.

1. Our Congregational Commitment in dollars has held steady throughout the last 3 years. *This amount is slightly higher than the amount we got when we were in a dues structure.*

2. The number of congregational families has stayed constant (a little up or down year to year, but overall stable). *In this era of shrinking congregations, we put that in the win column!*

3. In addition to the Congregational Commitment amounts, the amount of what are called “general donations” has increased dramatically. If we look at the average donations for the last 3 years compared to the previous 3 years, there's over a 100% increase. In each of the last 3 years we have had surprising levels of miscellaneous contributions, going well beyond what we had estimated in our budget. These come in the form of cash donations in honor of lifecycle and other events, as well as donations of cars, fifth wheels, stock, etc. *We interpret this as an endorsement that our open policy has created that culture of generosity we were going for.*

There is now an unprecedented, financially precarious season in store for CBI as a result of COVID 19 (for example, but not only, lost rental revenue from our Paradigm and Portrero School tenants). Despite this uncertainty, The Board of Trustees continues to make plans for the financial and spiritual integrity of our congregational community moving forward. Now more than ever before, in these challenging times, we embrace with increased determination the openness and inclusivity we are creating along with all of you. I want you to know that we on the Board are ready to lead the congregation through whatever comes our way. We are committed to our mission of being a welcoming and inclusive center of Jewish life in the Monterey Peninsula area . . . and we are grateful to be sharing that journey with you.





Coffee or Tea with Rabbi G.

We will continue through June every **Wednesday morning at 10:00 AM**. Join Rabbi Greenbaum with your favorite breakfast

beverage for a nice visit with other CBI members. Temple Beth El members are also joining us as well. Together we will relax and visit and share our thoughts. No need to dress up or even wear shoes! Pets and kids are welcome as well. What a nice way to stay connected as we continue to shelter in place. June 3 we will talk about interesting life cycle events moments we have experienced (like when the Chupah blew over and when the hearse's battery died).

On **June 10** – stories about our most interesting relatives

On **June 17** – best trip memories

On **June 24** – favorite movie scenes of all times

Join Us for A Farewell Virtual Concert

One way that we hope to keep Alisa and Kimball in our community is by way of their beautiful music from which we've received so many blessings. They've agreed to give us one more wonderful concert of their greatest hits. Let's join them this last time on **Sunday, June 28 at 3:00 PM**. Keep an eye out for the Zoom link which will be included in the June 22 Eblast.



Lunch with the Rabbi

Join Rabbi Greenbaum this month on **Thursday, June 4 at noon** online as he leads a virtual discussion on "Secrets and When to Share Them!" What secrets do you have that you plan to take with you to the grave? What secrets might you share with others? Does Jewish teaching ever require us to share secrets? As a rabbi, I never share what is told to me privately, except for a few special reasons. Let's share our thoughts but not our secrets at our next lunch with the rabbi. 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 to join our zoom discussion.



Schmooze and Booze

Sign on every **Tuesday evening in June**. Let's zoom together at **5 PM** for a one hour "Schmooze and Booze with Jews instead of the News."

Pick your favorite pre-dinner beverage and join the link that will be sent to all who are interested. We will sip and share and visit and complain and laugh. Let's continue to stay safe and practice social distancing as we join together on line for our own happy hour. Who knows, maybe we will even continue this tradition long after we are required to shelter in place. Topics to discuss will include:

June 2 – Playing sports and watching sports – favorite memories!

June 9 – Memories of our favorite meal, what was it and where were you?

June 16 – Sharing our secret talents. Are you a singer? Painter? Dog Whisperer?

June 23 – If I could visit any place in the world I would visit _____. Why?

June 30 – Stump the Rabbi. Ask him your favorite questions!

TRIVIA NIGHT

Trivia Night #2

Join Rabbi Greenbaum for another exciting night of Jewish Trivia, **Wednesday**,

June 3, 7:00 PM. Zoom information will come in upcoming emails.



CBI's Back Yard

You're invited! Call up your Chavurah, or a couple of 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. Some have brought lunches and snacks to enjoy while supporting each other. Our lower lot is pet friendly (leashes suggested) 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 while still socializing. Please note that there is no barrier to the river so children should be supervised.



New Chavurah Now Forming!!

Definition: a small group of like minded CBI congregants who gather together to share communal experiences.

In other words, groups of approximately 10 members per Chavurah who have some fun and sharing together by doing dinner, activities, sharing, and celebrating life.

The Plan: to establish as many groups by interest/cohort as those who are open and interested.

Email or call coordinator Rich

Harrit richardharrit@gmail.com 831.298.7674

COME ONE, COME ALL AND LET'S ENJOY EACH OTHERS FRIENDSHIP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



CBI Religious School - Interim Director

Congregation Beth Israel in Carmel, California seeks an experienced educator with

excellent communication skills to become the Interim Religious School Director for the 2020-2021 school year. The Interim Director will be responsible for maintaining operations of the CBI Religious School and collaboration with the Youth Activities Committee. This is a temporary, part-time position with the opportunity to apply to a subsequent permanent part-time position.

Congregation Beth Israel is a Jewish congregation of about 250 members affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism. The religious school and affiliated programs support students from early childhood to high school.

Overview of responsibilities:

1. Maintain education program and curriculum based on input and guidance from synagogue leadership
2. Communicate in a warm, friendly, and professional manner regarding Religious School activities to families, staff, board and community
3. Serve as Religious School leadership presence at school-related events, including Sunday morning religious school, Wednesday evening Hebrew school, occasional Friday night services, Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremonies, holiday events, etc.
4. Recruit, train, and assign Religious School faculty and staff with the support of administrative staff and board
5. Administrative responsibilities include coordination of enrollment documents and activities, RS budget management, and scholarship administration.

Minimum Qualifications:

1. Experience with teaching and education
2. Excellent communication skills
3. Knowledge of or advanced training in Judaism and Jewish Education

Interested candidates may send their resume and cover letter to julies@carmelbethisrael.org.



Farewell from Cantor Alisa Fineman to our CBI Family, with the Blessings of Shavuot

May 21, 2020

Dear CBI Family,

As I try to find a way to say goodbye, words elude me. How can I say goodbye to a congregation that I love and cherish deeply, to an era of our lives together? Please bear with me as my thoughts turn instead to the wisdom of the Jewish calendar which always, and mysteriously, holds a resonance with whatever is going on in my life at the time.

Most significant to me now is how our holidays and observances mark time and remind us that we are all on a journey. Through dreams, hard work and devotion we endeavor to align our true vocations with our livelihoods. Because of life circumstances, sometimes those dreams evolve and take us to places we never imagined, perhaps beyond our initial dreams, if we have the courage to pay attention. Change can be hard. We don't always know where life will lead us. But it is this uncertainty, difficult as it may be, that holds the greatest promise. As we approach the holiday of Shavuot, I can't help but think of the signs and wonders that led our ancient mothers and fathers through their uncertainty on their journey through the wilderness, and their holy encampment at the foot of Mt. Sinai where they experienced profound revelation. It is there that our "mixed-multitudes" received the gift of light, love and wisdom that we call Torah, a gift we are still receiving today, dramatically marked on the festival of Shavuot.

In Bamidbar Rabbah 1:7, our sages of the Talmud ask, "*Why was Torah given in the wilderness?*" for as it says in Numbers 1:1, "G~d spoke to Moses in the Sinai Wilderness." Inspiring discussion follows which includes the following interpretation: "*Anyone*

who does not make themselves ownerless [hefkeir] like the wilderness cannot acquire the wisdom and the Torah. Therefore it says, 'in the wilderness of Sinai.'" I have been engaged in such discussion with colleagues and chevruta in the weeks since Passover. A metonym for Torah is revelation. Where and when do we experience revelation? In making ourselves like the wilderness, we make ourselves open, spacious, expansive. We own nothing, we have no claim on anything, and no one has a claim on us. Empty of old judgements and opinions, we become a clean slate. It is only in such a state of consciousness that we can open ourselves to the power of revelation, new insights and wisdom that can transform us, strengthen our spiritual core and the bonds within our community.

Though I am certain about the choice I've made to embark on a new chapter with Temple Beth El in Aptos, I'm uncertain about what my future holds there. Though I am certain that my CBI Family will remain in my heart forever, I am uncertain about what that will actually look like in the time to come. This brings forth an upwelling of emotion. As I face this time of transition and not knowing, I pray I can do so with honesty, integrity and your blessings.

And, with the blessings of Shavuot, may we trust that our places of uncertainty will lead to deeper insights that help us learn and grow and move us forward on our journey. May we invest our faith in a bigger truth that there is great promise within this time of change. *Esa einai*, may we lift our eyes to the mountains from where our help surely comes. May we open our hearts to the gift of Torah, illuminating our way and filling us all with light.

With utmost and deepest gratitude and love,

Cantor Alisa Fineman





An Honor for Rabbi Leah

The Jewish Museum Frankfurt is preparing an exhibition which will be opened in October 2020 titled "The Female Side of God". A poem. "Shekhinah," written by our own Rabbi Leah Novick, will

appear on the walls of the exhibition space.

SHEKHINAH by Rabbi Leah Novick

To our desert ancestors, she was the Divine Presence who they carried in the Sacred Ark the clouds of glory that guided them and the Manna that nourished them

To the Talmudic sages, she was the Divine Presence who dwelled in the holy temple in Jerusalem the Spirit that surrounds us when we pursue justice and leaves when there is pollution and violence.

To the Medieval Pietists, she was the Divine Presence who sat at the celestial Throne of Glory receiving our prayers . and radiating back the light to all beings.

To the authors of the Zohar, she was the Divine Presence moving through the Tree of Life as Binah, great Ocean Mother Gevurah the Destroyer, Hod the Glory and Malchuth the Earth

To the S'f at Kabbalists, she was the Divine Presence as "Pardes" holy apple orchard and Shabbos Queen whose re-unification with the Divine King was the goal of all prayers and ritual actions

To the Hasidic Masters, she was the Divine Presence who shone on the faces of righteous women and men

Mother of the soul's breath. her return to earth was the goal of their prayers

To our diaspora Foremothers, she was the Divine Presence as the Compassionate Source the one they called out to in childbirth, illness and death; and celebrated on the New Moon

An to us contemporary seekers, she is the Divine Presence in the voices of women, representing the Shekhinah re-awakening who is calling to us from the earth... save the planet, stop the nuclear madness, clear the air, heal the sick, respect the elders, care for the children

and to Her, we respond- we are ready to create a dwelling place for the divine here on earth. To Her we answer in music and meditation, in politics and poetry, in dance and drama. to Her we respond: "Hineynu" yes, we are here !

First published in Gnosis magazine, this poem has been included

in a number of modern prayer books.



**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



June Appeals

Arlene Krebs, Social Action Trustee

As I was thinking about what to write for this month's article, "June Appeals" came to mind. A play on the word "appeals". How summer is so appealing, beckoning us to enjoy outdoor activities, family events, summer BBQs, the beach, bike riding, vacation and so much more. How appealing all of these are, especially during a time when we have to avoid most of these activities.

Then there is the other meaning of appeals. Appeals for help. Appeals for us to give more than we usually do. Appeals to volunteer, to contribute, to help especially our local organizations that are providing life's essentials for our community. Appeals for food security from Monterey Food Bank, the Boys & Girls Club, and Meals on Wheels. Appeals for the homeless from Gathering for Women, I-HELP, and others. And yes, appeals from one organization that I have been deeply involved with over the past 10 years, Loaves, Fishes and Computers/LFC, so please permit this "indulgence."

Loaves, Fishes & Computers/LFC

<loavesfishescomputers.org>

Since Shelter in Place/SIP, March 17th, LFC has distributed 1,064 computers to low-income families and individuals—seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities. LFC has been deemed an "essential business" and has implemented safe practices to receive and distribute computers. LFC is usually a beehive of activities with 40-50 weekly multi-generational and multi-cultural volunteers (over 225 annually) to help refurbish computers and assist clients. Now LFC works with just its 5 staff who are diligently refurbishing and distributing computers.

However, LFC is running out of equipment given the essential need for individuals and students. Do you have a computer or printer that is 4 years or younger

to contribute? If so, please contact me and I will arrange to pick these up and deliver to LFC. Or, do you can you contribute as a donor? At a time when most of us cannot imagine life now without a computer for communications and information, can you imagine the feelings of isolation if you don't have one? As well as the need for students for their distance learning? Those who are on the other side of the economic and digital divides need to participate as equals in our increasingly digital and virtual society. Thank you!

I-HELP Updates

The June 7th, Men's I-HELP is being hosted by the Carmel Rotary Club under Rabbi Bruce's leadership in partnership with members of Kavanat HaLev, the Jewish Renewal Community. 15 Men (reduced from the usual 20-25) are housed at a local church and have been there since SIP. We deliver dinner, breakfast and lunch foods to the Church. Thanks to Matthew Schuss who attended the May I-HELP Forum via Zoom and updated us as to I-HELP's activities and concerns.

The Women's I-HELP has reduced from 14 participants in March to 6 participants now. The Women go to Gathering for Women for breakfast and lunch and for hygiene. CBI, in partnership with the Lambourne Institute for Life Mastery, is scheduled to host the women on June 29th. The Women's program is under consideration now, and I will notify our community about these logistics.

Thank you for your Mitzvahs!

Arlene Krebs

Social Action Trustee

arlenekrebs123@gmail.com



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.

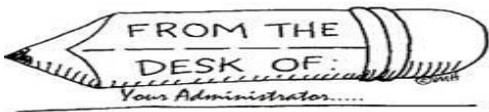
Please call the office at 831-624-2015 if:

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.



On June 13th **Marcus Togneri** will have his virtual Bar Mitzvah. From the moment Marcus was born he had a strong presence and a huge loving heart! Marcus has always been a great student and attends Carmel Middle. He also shines and finds joy in playing basketball, flag football, track and Hockey. Last summer Marcus was

hired to be a camp counselor at a local summer camp, which he was hoping to do this summer. He was praised by his bosses for his hard work ethic and being a role model. Marcus's kind loving heart also shines through his love and attention to animals.



- Our fiscal year ends on June 30 and our new year begins on July 1. We understand that some of you may be experiencing financial hardship but ask those who can to please make every effort to pay the balance on your accounts and send in your 2020/21 Pledge Forms. If you have any questions about your account or about our pledge system please call me at 831 624 2015 or email me at juliec@carmelbethisrael.org.
- Our Virtual Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 16. We are working out all the details but please remember that you must be a member in good standing to vote. This is determined by those who have returned their 2020/21 Pledge Forms. Voting at the meeting will be online and we are researching ways to vote by mail and phone. Please let us know if you would like a mail-in ballot.
- Credit cards have become a great convenience, but **did you know that CBI pays almost \$9000/year in credit card fees?** When possible, please consider paying your pledges, Religious School fees and donations with a check or directly from your bank. \$9000 would cover some wonderful programming at CBI.

Julie Chase



THANK YOU!!

UJC Donations

David Sabih & Anna Swartley in honor of Fred Zaus

Cantorial Restricted Fund

Michael & Debora Waxer in honor of David Sabih

Rucka Travel & Enrichment Fund

Victor & Rena Feuerstein in memory of Rena's mother, Cecil Spatz Goldhammer

Victor & Rena Feuerstein in memory of Todd Hornik's mother, Linda Hornik

Victor & Rena Feuerstein in memory of Vic's father, Morris Feuerstein

Victor & Rena Feuerstein Refuch Shlema Seth & Naomi Pollack & Family

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Rosemary Lande in memory of her father, Harry Garfield and her brother, Jesse Garfield

Rosemary Lande in memory of Judy Simon's brother, Robert Lefkowitz

Imogene Speiser

Carmel Jewish Film Festival Sponsor

Mr. Stanley Weiss

General Donations

Anita Artstein-Dunsay in memory of Isabel A. Artstein & Richard L. Dunsay

Ellyn Gelson in honor of May birthdays and anniversaries

Ellyn Gelson in memory of Linda Hornik

Clark Miller & Cara Lieb in honor of Ellyn Gelson's Birthday



Diana Rosenthal in memory of Judy Simon's brother, Robert Lefkowitz

Susan Schwartz in memory of Judy Simon's brother, Robert Lefkowitz

Herbert Stern donation in memory of Sam, Ida & Stanley Stern



Congregation Beth Israel
June 2020
Sivan ~ Tamuz 5780

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|--|---|--|---|---|
| Services/, Studies, and Meetings will be scheduled through Zoom, accessible online or by phone. until such time as we have the clearance to resume physical gatherings. | 1 | 2 5:00 PM Zoom Booze and Schmooze | 3 10:00 Coffee & Tea with Rabbi G 7:00 PM Trivia Night Via Zoom | 4 12:00 Lunch with Rabbi Via Zoom | 5 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services with Birthday Blessings via Zoom  Traditions | 6 10:30 AM Torah Study Via Zoom |
| 7 I-Help Off Site Sponsored by Carmel Valley Rotary | 8 | 9 5:00 PM Zoom Booze & Schmooze | 10 10:00 Coffee & Tea with Rabbi G | 11 | 12 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services with Temple Beth El via Zoom | 13 10:30 Shabbat Service when Marcus Togneri becomes a Bar Mitzvah Via Zoom |
| 14 10:00 Religious School Friendship Circle Scavenger Hunt | 15 | 16 5:00 PM Zoom Booze and Schmooze | 17 10:00 Coffee & Tea with Rabbi G | 18 | 19  <i>Shabbat Shalom!</i> 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services via Zoom | 20 SUMMER BEGINS 10:30 Shabbat Services when Sara and Ava Martin become B'not Mitzvah Via Zoom |
| 21 FATHERS DAY | 22 | 23 5:00 PM Zoom Booze & Schmooze 6:30 PM Executive Committee meets Via Zoom | 24 10:00 Coffee & Tea with Rabbi G 7:30 Worship Committee | 25 | 26 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services with anniversary blessings Via Zoom | 27 10:30 AM Torah Study Via Zoom |
| 28 10:00 AM Religious School Friendship Circle with Cantor Alisa 3:00 PM Alisa & Kimball - Farewell Concert from home via Zoom | 29 | 30 5:00 PM Zoom Booze and Schmooze 7:15 PM CBI Board of Trustees Meet | | | | |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

| | | | |
|----------------------|----|---------------------------|----|
| Robert Felthoven | 2 | Kirsten Nicholls-Marshall | 13 |
| Nick Harris | 2 | Andrea Rosenberg | 14 |
| Steven Neil | 2 | Jonathan Aborn | 15 |
| Lee Goldman | 3 | Lester Tockerman | 15 |
| Ellen Saxby | 5 | Cade Beitscher | 16 |
| Susan Newton | 6 | Lorraine Gerstl | 17 |
| Raphael Nissim | 6 | Nina Grace Harmer | 19 |
| Marcia Pompan | 7 | River Mello | 20 |
| Dylan Hinds | 8 | Megan Felthoven | 21 |
| Zachary Hinds | 8 | Natalie Sammet | 25 |
| Ila Kleinman | 8 | Susan Schwartz | 25 |
| Karen Wiskoff | 8 | Cary Stiebel | 28 |
| Norman Jacobson | 12 | Laurie Benjamin | 29 |
| Rachelle Sue Lackman | 12 | Lily Goldberg | 29 |
| Alan Rosen | 12 | Matthew Schuss | 29 |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|----|----------------------------------|----|
| Christopher & DeeDee Chambers | 1 | Richard Gerber & Laurie Kleinman | 21 |
| Wendy & Andrew Schmidt | 1 | Amanda & Joe Mello | 21 |
| Peter & Judith Levin | 3 | Dennis Niekro & Paul Richmond | 21 |
| Marc & Shelagh Baseman | 5 | Mira & Shai Nissim | 23 |
| Lew Bauman & Jennifer Stone | 9 | Brian Ellinoy & Rachelle Lackman | 24 |
| Stanton & Joan Schiffer | 9 | Victor & Rena Feuerstein | 25 |
| Sadok & Judy Masliyah | 15 | Jay & Ruthie Pack | 26 |
| Samuel & Beryl Levinger | 17 | Barry & Debra Kassels | 27 |
| Stuart S. & Leslie Pressman | 18 | Stephen & Wendie A. Ryter | 27 |
| Rory & Toni Lakind | 19 | Hugo & Lorraine Gerstl | 29 |
| Alan Lefkof & Ann Gordon | 20 | David & Ila Kleinman | 30 |
| Wendy & David Fried | 21 | | |

CBI Religious School



A Letter from Louise

As I wind up my career as the Director of Education at CBI, I want to acknowledge the partnership I was privileged to partake in with all of the students, families, and faculty throughout the years. Together we have built a learning community that requires all of our active participation. It has been my honor to foster the development of Jewish learning and engagement within our congregation in my role as a teacher in the school and then as Director of Education over the last 27 years.

I especially want to recognize my gratitude to this year's faculty. This has been a very challenging year. Our teachers worked hard to create curriculum and lesson plans that would engage our students in meaningful Jewish learning in a classroom setting. But two months ago, classroom settings suddenly became off limits. Within a week, these dedicated teachers learned new tools and platforms to reach out to their students. They worked very hard so we could continue to connect and learn together through the remainder of the year. We rediscovered the importance of our *kehillah*, our Jewish community. Isolation is hard. It is lonely and boring. Our teachers were determined to make sure that all of our students continued to know that we care and support them and each other. Together the faculty has joined me in creating a community of learning as we worked together toward the same goal. We all deeply believe that the future of the Jewish people is found in the hearts and minds of our children. This is the main tenant of our learning together. I cannot thank

them enough for journeying with me to implement this belief with enormous love and dedication.

I want to thank Rabbi Greenbaum for being my mentor throughout my career. He promoted my development by always offering support and fostering independence. He encouraged my professional development through studying with me monthly, supporting my attendance at professional conferences and ultimately backing my decision to return to school for master's degree in Jewish Education. I would not be the educator I am today without him. I am immensely grateful.

I am honored to call Cantor Fineman a friend and colleague. Our careers at CBI paralleled each other. We both grew professional and personally through our work together. I always knew her loving care was a constant behind me. I will miss our collaboration. I thank her for her multitude of gifts

The office staff, Julie Chase and Abby King (and others throughout the years of my career), do so much behind the scenes to support the school and ensure that everything runs smoothly. Their extraordinary efforts are given graciously and with a smile. It is the little, often underappreciated, jobs that allow the whole to run efficiently. Thank you.

Although I am retiring at the end of June, I am not leaving the area nor the congregation. I plan to remain part of the CBI family and look forward to participating in services, learning, and events in the days to come. I also plan to spend time with my family (my new grandson and aging parents) and visit other places once travel options open up again. We do not know what the future will look like, but it holds the promise of innovation, creativity, learning and above all community. I am excited to see where it takes all of us.





Friendship Circle

This is a wonderful time to be with our classmates and friends. The Friendship Circle that began during our school year will continue every other week at least

through the end of June. Each gathering will begin at **10:30** and run for no more than a half hour.

May 31 - Storytelling with Susan Newton

June 14 - Scavenger Hunt

June 28 - Singing with Cantor Alisa



A Poem for the Madrichim

We offer this poem to thank our madrichim (teen teaching assistants) for a wonderful year in Religious School:

We say thanks to the Madrichim

Who helped us with our boo-boos
Bringing us to the office for bandaids and snacks
Jumping around with us in our classrooms, sitting quietly with us at our seats
Who sat with us on couches and around tables reading Hebrew practice sheets
Sitting patiently with us, guiding us through every letter

We say thanks to the Madrichim
Who led us in games and in stories
Who taught us courage and compassion
Who took their Religious School experiences and said - I want to make this just as good, even better, for those to come after me

We say thanks to our Madrichim
Who gave us so many of their Sundays and so much of themselves

We say thanks to the Madrichim -
Our Madrichim - our teen leaders -
Who are who we will become

- by Jenna Feldman



Jewish Family Ideas - June

◆ Learning about the Jewish Calendar: While the seasons

are measured by the Earth's relation to the sun, the Jewish calendar is based on the phases of the moon (and just a little on the sun). It follows a lunar calendar, correcting with a "leap year," which periodically contains two months of Adar. Each Jewish calendar month begins with a new moon. Mid-month (the 15th) corresponds with the full moon. (from PJ Library.org)

- ◆ Everyone loves birthday celebrations, so why not celebrate twice this year? Celebrate both the Hebrew and Secular dates you and your children were born.

<https://www.hebcal.com/converter/> can help you find your Hebrew birthday.

- ◆ Book Suggestions: *I Say Shehechyanu*: Written by Joanne Rocklin, Illustrated by Monika Filipina.

Life is a series of firsts -- first steps, first words, first teeth, first day in a new year of your life! Jewish tradition has a special prayer, the Shehechyanu that recognizes the importance of each and every first. Ages 3 - 7

The Rabbi and the Twenty-nine Witches:

Written and Illustrated by [Marilyn Hirsh](#). A clever rabbi is finally able to overcome the witches that frighten the villagers once each month, when the moon is full. Ages 6 -9.

Here is the World: Written by Leslea Newman, Illustrated by [Susan Gal](#). The cycle of the Jewish year is a world of joy, significance, and wonder. As the leaves turn gold, flutter to the ground, and are ultimately replaced by fresh green buds, we follow the Jewish year from one milestone to the next. Ages 3 - 6.

Note: All of the above book suggestions are also PJ Library selections. To sign your children, ages 6 months – 8 years, up for a FREE Jewish book of the month club go to: [PJLibrary.org](#). For children ages 9 - 11, PJ Our Way allows them to choose their own chapter book each month. Go to [PJOurWay.org](#) to sign up your child.



Torah Connections:

Vol. 145 June 2020, 5780

Michael Waxer

Falling Down

We've been taught that Adam and Eve, the first two people HaShem created, broke one of the two rules that God gave them, and we've been paying for that mistake ever since.

This is another great example of where a literal reading of the text makes one wonder how this all makes sense. Let's see, because the snake coerced Eve to eat, and she helped Adam to eat the fruit from this tree, that is why we must toil all day, why women suffer in child birth, and why the world is filled with evil. Hmmm. Even more confusing is that HaShem said that if you eat of the fruit you will '*mot tamoot*' *surely die*... HaShem didn't mention these other 'punishments' at all.

Why would HaShem even create a system like this? I mean, why have this idyllic Garden of Eden, where everything is perfect, except for these two trees from which they are forbidden to eat? Why would HaShem do this if he really didn't want them to eat the fruit from them? Why would God create a cunning snake in the first place? Okay, now let's look at this story in a completely different way....

In the Spiritual universe, HaShem has angels, these entities who follow instructions. Then,

“And God said, Let us make Man in Our image, after our likeness...” (Genesis [Bereseet] 1:26)

This new creation, humans, was given the unique ability to make decisions *outside of our animal impulse*, and to therefore share attributes with HaShem. But HaShem knows that the best way to develop this spiritual strength is for us to *develop this muscle*, to figure out *how to make choices that are often not in alignment with our animal part*. *HaShem purposely created challenges so we can overcome them and be spiritually strengthened.*

This process, of falling down and finding strength to get back up, that '*getting back up*' seems to be linked with spiritual growth. This type of strength could be one attribute that allows us to fulfill this insightful mitzvot,

“...Holy you shall be for holy am I, HaShem, your God.” (Leviticus [Vayikra] 19:2)

Maybe this directive of being holy, one of God's attributes, is a measurement of spiritual growth.

Throughout our lives we are faced with obstacles. The consequences of facing a challenge can be harsh, with

pain and suffering. Yet, our ability to get back up seems to be the key. *Developing these spiritual 'muscles' might be why we are blessed with this physical existence.* HaShem wanted us to find this strength so we could be something that even the angels cannot aspire to, which is *the ability to choose*.

So, if we now read the story knowing HaShem created the system **exactly as he wanted**, where God wants us, the humans, to **choose to fall down**. **HaShem wanted us to choose to descend to the lower world, using our own free choice, which will then allow us to ascend to loftier heights.** The 'punishments' that HaShem gives to Adam and Eve are the consequences of the decision to descend to this world. Falling down often does have lasting consequences, but we still can rise up and develop strength from the experience.

I mean, how great is that... HaShem so wanted us to be able to experience aspects of HaShem, and knew that the best way for us to receive this gift is to develop this attribute of overcoming challenges. ***We needed to learn how to get back up, and the best way to learn that is after falling down. In order to jump high, one must first lower themselves.***

Consider that this may be true both from an individual perspective, and also from a community, or peoplehood, perspective. Think about Jewish history, which is filled with setbacks and then spiritual growth. Perhaps one of the reasons the Jewish people are still around is that the Torah strengthens us so we can get back up.

The mitzvot, the lessons and direction given in the Torah, and the wisdom passed down to us by our sages... **all of these are tools that have been transmitted to us that help us to get back up after falling.** The human condition is about failure, of falling, of setbacks, of disappointments. But that is not all. The human condition is also about perseverance, dedication, faith, success, wisdom and *tzedek*, righteousness.

HaShem created a system that allows each of us to gain attributes that are, literally, out of this world. The 'light' of the Spiritual Universe, a universe we each co-exist in, a universe that is bridged by our neshama, our 'soul', is part of the blessing of our existence. This physical world was purposely created with obstacles, so we can develop our spiritual muscles and grow closer to HaShem. And now you know the real story....

This Torah Connection was inspired by a talk from Rabbi Manis Friedman 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. If you have any comments regarding this, please e-mail a note to: mlwaxer@sbcglobal.net.

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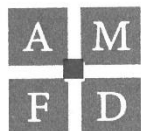
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Chartered in 1954 as the Jewish Community of the Monterey Peninsula, Congregation Beth Israel today serves the spiritual, educational, and social needs of Jews on the Peninsula. We derive programming and administrative strength from our affiliation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

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Parshiot

June 6, Naso

T: Numbers 4:21-7:89

H: Judges 13:2-25

June 13, Beha'alotecha

T: Numbers 8:1-12:16

H: Zechariah 2:14-4:7

June 20, Shelach

T: Numbers 13:1-15:41

H: Joshua 2:1-24

July 27, Korach

T: Numbers 16:1-18:32

H: 1 Samuel 11:14-12:22