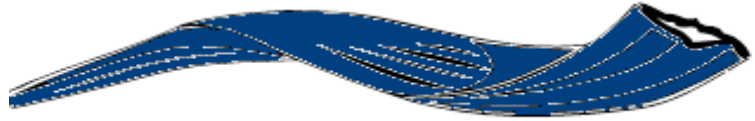


SHOFAR



Monthly Newsletter of the Monterey Peninsula Jewish Community

www.carmelbethisrael.org



Havdalah on the Beach Returns

Do you enjoy singing folk songs? Is anything better than sitting around a fire pit, enjoying s'mores as you watch the sun setting into the ocean? If this sounds like a great way to end your Sabbath, then join Rabbi Greenbaum and our Cantorial Soloist Suzanne Guinane on **Saturday evening, July 24th**. Look for them on Carmel beach below 13th and Scenic Drive. The rabbi will bring a propane fire pit and fixings for s'mores for a relaxing Havdalah evening on Carmel Beach. We begin at **7:00 PM** but you can come early and enjoy a picnic dinner before our Havdalah service. Bring warm clothes, beach toys, something to sit on, and musical instruments. This is a great event for the entire family and even the family dog!

**This Year You Can Make
Your
2021-22 CBI Pledge
Online!**

[PLEDGE HERE](#)

Or follow the link on our home page
www.carmelbethisrael.org



GREAT NEWS! The Jewish Food Festival is Back!

The Food Festival will be back in 2021. It's going to happen on **Sunday, August 22, 2021**.

That's less than two months away! We need your help! Our CBI members have been super-wonderful in helping with our previous festivals.

We could not hold the festival in 2020. Covid appears to be on the way out, but many are still nervous. Moreover, the pandemic has disrupted many of the supply channels and publicity outlets we've used in the past. We'll have a modified version of our Food Festival in 2021, and we hope the full festival can resume in 2022. *Continued on page 6.*



CBI Board Nominations

We are still looking for congregants who are interested in serving on the Board of Trustees for the 2021-23 term. At the writing of this article, several positions are still available. Applications are due to the CBI Office by July 6. It is stated in our by-laws:

Continued on page 6.



From the Rabbi's Desk...

As we start July most of our country will be focused on celebrating July 4 and America's holiday of independence. Whether it is enjoying fireworks (please be extra careful if you must light your own during this very dry year) or participating in a barbecue or a beach day, we all enjoy this national holiday. As a child I remember volleyball games with the kids challenging and losing to the adults in my uncle's back yard. Then the kids were assigned the task of cranking the ice cream before we all enjoyed a wonderful dessert. As much as I love July 4 and being an American citizen, I love my Jewish identity even more so. Let me offer just one reason why being Jewish is so meaningful for me.

Instead of celebrating our independence, our Jewish heritage emphasizes our dependence on one another. I love the focus our tradition places on family. Our sacred scriptures are filled with messages of honoring our parents and respecting the senior members of our community. Our tradition constantly reminds us of the importance of raising our children with love and understanding. We are taught to hold our teachers in high esteem. All members of society are to be valued. Each of us is responsible for the neediest in our society. We depend on one another. It is not independence but interdependence.

Through our Jewish lessons we learn to appreciate this dependence. I know I can count on others to help me in times of need and hopefully others know they can depend on me whenever they need assistance. Recently my wife had to spend two nights at CHOMP. Susan has fully recovered, and everything is okay. But those members in our community who knew about her short hospital stay reached out offering meals and asking how they might assist us. Flowers were delivered to our front door. People went out of their way to offer their support.

Of course, feeling dependent on others can be challenging. If you are hesitant to ask for assistance when it is needed, please recognize you when you do

ask for help you are allowing others to fulfill the mitzvah of helping. Anyone who has participated in one of our social justice programs knows that feeling of joy at the knowledge that we are assisting others. Whether it is preparing a meal for IHELP or serving at one of the local soup kitchens, including JCM United's Abraham's Tent (which is now accepting more volunteers), one finds fulfillment in strengthening others around us.

Our synagogue thrives on the support of our members. We depend on each other. We join in prayer knowing that those around us help lift our voices to God. We offer each other comfort during times of mourning. We bring additional joy as we share in births and Bar/Bat Mitzvah and wedding celebrations together. We make programs like our upcoming Jewish Food Festival a community gala. Whether it is being one of the many volunteers baking together in the kitchen or joining the work force building the booths, the interaction and cooperation strengthens all of us. What joy as we work together side by side creating an event that shares a taste of our Jewish heritage with our community.

Let's recognize that what makes CBI special is not the rabbi or the Torah or the building (although they are all important!), but the members. Our strength emerges as we come together as a community, joining and supporting each other. It is the blending of voices and the sharing of ideas that allows us to build and grow. Without each other, we could not be Congregation Beth Israel. Join me as we celebrate our inner dependence.





From our President

Dan Nussbaum, President Board of Trustees

Everyone has, by now, received our membership mailing or email asking you to make a 2021-22 pledge to CBI. This year, we hope to make the process a bit easier by offering an online option as well as the usual phone or mail ways to let us know your plans. If you did not receive one, you can call the office, or you can retrieve one off CBI's website. Remember, this is the way we run CBI. There are no fixed dues; rather everything is "from the court," so I urge you to make a commitment from your heart. As the mailing says, and I cannot say it any better: "We anticipate 2021-2022 will be a challenging fiscal year...but we will nurture our dynamic Religious and Hebrew Schools, continue to support our well-attended adult education programs, and develop a lively and responsive spiritual life led by our clergy both in person and online. With such a strong community, we will certainly meet the special challenges of helping and caring for each other during these unusual times." I am grateful that you are joining us on this journey.

We have had inspiring and very well-received Friday night Shabbat services. Bravos to Rabbi and to our Cantorial Soloist, Suzanne, for putting these together. While Rabbi has been on vacation, Suzanne has been flying solo, so DOUBLE BRAVOS to her.

Cara Lieb, our Immediate Past President, is chairing the Board of Trustees nominating committee. If you are interested in serving our congregation and the larger Jewish community, please let her know of your interest. I can assure you that serving on the board is always a rewarding experience.

I am delighted that the Food Festival committee, under the able vision of Malina Breaux, is making progress towards an August 22nd (modified) JFF, one which will maintain our traditions and live within the constraints of the immediate post pandemic world. Naturally, we need volunteers, and Gary Simon is the

right point of contact for that. Naturally we also need sponsorships, and the right person to contact for that is Abra Teitler.

We recently read the Torah portion Korach, in which the real issue--never mind what it looks like on the surface-- is "how do we argue?". Korach, a cousin of Moses, incites a mutiny, challenging Moses' leadership, arguing that Moses and Aaron should not be above the rest of the nation because "all of the community, everyone, is holy" (sounds like "we are all equal here, aren't we?"). It's a challenge to how power is distributed in society. God does not take well to this challenge, and the story ends in dramatic fashion, with the earth opening and swallowing Korach and his followers. So it would appear that those who question God's appointed leaders are to be punished with great violence and fury. This however is NOT the Torah's point, but rather Torah accepts that leaders can be challenged, and that they should be challenged when there is a genuine injustice being perpetrated, whether intentionally or not. However, those challenges are only worthwhile if they are brought for the sake of seeking truth, instead of solely to pursue a particular predetermined agenda.

May we approach our challenges openly, seeking solutions and harmony.

Wishing that you and your loved ones all Stay Safe, and looking forward to seeing you in-person in the near future.

Dan
Dan Nussbaum
(C) (831) 324-3228

"I recognize that there are true costs to running the synagogue – and my pledge feels like a fair price to pay to maintain a vibrant Jewish community."

short green person

WE ASKED: WHY DO YOU PLEDGE?



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

Re-Launching and Re- Naming our School

....and we would love your help! We learned a lot during our Virtual School Year and are embracing the opportunities COVID-19 has offered us, especially with integrating our learning and continuing to build upon our Foundation of Sacred Community – where our Students and Families agree to Respect each other, Support each other and Build Trust with each other.

Hebrew, Religious School and Aleynu are all moving to Sunday!

- a. 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM for Kindergarten – Grade 6.
- b. Our **Students and Families** will begin the day with **Havdallah** and singing at **9AM** (marking the end of Shabbat).
- c. **Grades 5 and 6 Services** – students will attend and help lead *Shabbat* morning services at **9:30 AM** in preparation for their *B'nei Mitzvah*.
- d. Hebrew and Judaica for all classes.
- e. New Curriculum for Hebrew, Judaica and *Aleynu*.
- f. We will study 3 Middot (Jewish Values) in our School and as a Congregation.
- g. Students will have snack and break/social time each week.
- h. Music each month. Art, Cooking and Storytelling throughout the year.

i. Aleynu – **Grades 7 – 12** from **1:00 PM – 2:30 PM** two Sundays per month (after a little nosh at 12:30 PM of course 😊).

Registration – Begins mid-July.

First Day of School – Sunday, 9/19/2021

How can you help? I am so glad you asked! With this new integrated configuration, we are looking for a new name for our school.

When you register your child(ren), **Submit a Name for our School**.

I am so looking forward to answering your questions and helping register your child(ren) for school.

I'm also looking forward to burying our 2020-2021 Time Capsule when we return, too.

Have a wonderful summer!

Here's our Time Capsule:





It is with much excitement that we look forward to praying together in **person every Friday night in July and August**. Each week we will gather at **6:00 PM** on the blacktop area below CBI. While we will preset some chairs you can also bring your own chairs if you wish. Please register in advance by calling the CBI office at 624-2015 so we know how many people will be joining us. If possible, bring your own copy of Mishkan T'filah, our prayer book. Copies of our prayer book (one per household) can be borrowed from the office in advance of the services. We will also have a few copies available each evening for those who do not yet have a prayer book. Dress warmly or in layers as the evenings can get cold! Because of our covid protocols we will enjoy a kiddish and motzi, only wine/juice and challah, and announce in the future our plans for additional oneg foods. Any foods served for now will be in their own separate container or individually wrapped.

On Saturday morning, July 31, we will enjoy a Shabbat morning service including both reading from the Torah and some Torah study. We will gather at **10:30 AM** on the blacktop area. If you want to participate in assisting leading the service or chanting a few lines of Torah, please call the rabbi to volunteer. Bring your own tallit if you want to wear one as none will be provided by the synagogue due to our covid protocols. Look for future announcements about more activities and events together.



Lunch with the Rabbi

Let's try meeting at a restaurant again! If you are vaccinated, join Rabbi Greenbaum this month on **Wednesday, July 7, at noon** at Baja Cantina located about a mile east of CBI when he leads one of his favorite sessions titled "Ask the Rabbi." The rabbi will try to answer any and all questions asked. Possible questions to ask may include the topics of Israel and its current political situation, Reform Judaism, Congregation Beth Israel issues, and modern-day events. Your questions can be about religion and spirituality, or what does Judaism say about... Ask about reopening the CBI building or if a person with a tattoo can be buried in a Jewish cemetery. Come prepared to question and offer your thoughts for this special open forum. Call the CBI office at 624-2015 to RSVP. We will order off their regular menu so expect lunch to cost approximately \$15-\$20.



BEST YEARS

Best Years Lunch Gathering!

It has been over a year since our Best Years group has met. With hopefully all of us vaccinated, it is time to start meeting again. This month our Best Years group will meet on **Wednesday, July 21** celebrating our survival through this terrible coronavirus that forced us apart. Let's join together **at noon** at the Baja Cantina restaurant for a delicious lunch. Meet us at Baja located at 7166 Carmel Valley Road. Enjoy a tasty meal and maybe even sip a margarita as we visit with each other. We will let the Senior Endowment Fund pay for all the expenses. Please RSVP by Tuesday July 20 for this free lunch by calling the CBI office at 624-2015.

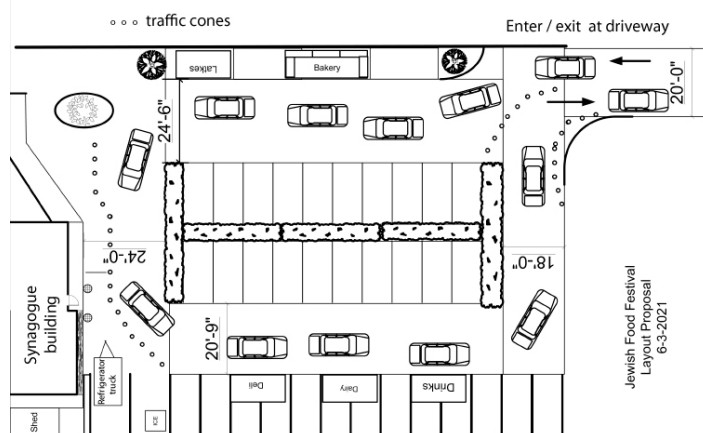


Jewish Food Festival

Continued from page 1.

The 2021 festival will be operated as a drive-through on the synagogue's upper parking area. Our patrons will not have to leave their cars. A ticketing system will be used to get food items to the cars as they drive around. Logistics such as traffic management, on-site ordering, and on-line ordering are still being discussed.

The diagram below shows the plan for setup and car movement.



The Food Festival is Sunday, August 22, 2021. We will be open for guests from 10 am to 3 pm. A very important change is that volunteers will work a *single shift* from 10 am to 3 pm. There will be no separate morning and afternoon shifts, as we did in past festivals. Volunteers will be asked to park in our lower field behind the synagogue building, and it's very important that volunteers be in place by 9:30 am.

Our members have been very kind in giving time and effort to previous festivals. Please help us out again! Please include the task for which you would like to volunteer. See all the available volunteer opportunities on page 9. You can send an email to either Gary Simon, GarySimonMonterey@gmail.com or Susan Greenbaum greenbaumcarmel@sbcglobal.net. Become a sponsor by contacting Abra Teitler AETJN@aol.com.

CBI Board Nominations

Continued from page 1

Nominations for Trustee or Officer may be made by any individual desirous of serving by filing a written

Application with the Executive Committee or with the office administrator at least forty (40) days prior to the date set for the Annual Meeting stating the name of the Applicant and the office for which the Applicant wishes to run.

The Annual Meeting this year will be held on **Sunday, August 15, at 5:00 PM**. Save the date and stay tuned for more details about it.

If you have any questions about serving on the Board or about the elections in general, please contact Cara Lieb via text or phone at 831-915-3017.



CBI Interest-Free Loan

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.



CBI's Back Yard

With more people getting vaccinated and with the Governor's recent announcement, we can now safely gather behind our CBI building with friends. Invite your

Chavurah, or a group of friends to a picnic using our backyard. Many groups have discovered that setting up chairs in a large circle on our blacktop below our building is a great way to safely visit with one another. 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 careful and wear your masks if you are not vaccinated! 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 Chavurah discussion. You are welcome to take advantage of this prime meeting space that allows for safe distancing in a responsible fashion.



Welcome Back!

Doesn't it feel great to go out?! Share a dinner, a walk, an event with friends & family? And HUG again! For those of us who are vaccinated, fear and reticence dwindle.

As CBI cautiously re-opens, we are ready to...

Welcome Back I-HELP Men!

The I-HELP Men are now returning to the rotating schedule of visiting congregations around our region. CBI hosts them on Sunday, August 1 at 5:00pm. All of the men are vaccinated, and our CBI Re-Opening Committee has given their "A-OK"!

We will be preparing and serving dinner, and providing foods for Monday's breakfast and lunch. The men would welcome members of our CBI congregation to "break bread" with them at dinner. And I'm thinking, it would be so nice to create a festive environment, as they too begin experiencing life outside the "bubble" they've been living in for the past 16 months.

Would you like to participate in our Welcome to CBI? Suggestions include greeting the men as they arrive, helping to prepare and serve dinner, joining them for the meal, perhaps even some live music & showing a film on our projection system. It would be wonderful for us to demonstrate our commitment to I-HELP and the men as we all break through the challenges of this past year.

Thanks to Rabbi Bruce's and the Carmel Valley Rotary for providing funds for June's dinner. The men enjoyed a Mexican meal of tamales, rice, salad and vegetables. And thanks to the ever-dependable Charlene & Matthew Schuss for providing lunch and Charlene's yummy homemade brownies.

Nancy Rund has volunteered to provide breakfast and lunch foods for July. Thank-you Nancy, and I'm sure she'd welcome assistance. The Lambourne Institute for Life Mastery will provide the funds for our July dinner.

The I-Help Women's program continues on pause until the I-HELP program can best provide services for them.

Social Action & Info Resources

Please help add more resources to this list of Jewish organizations and the social action concerns, activities, recommendations & events that they organize and communicate to our nationwide Jewish community. Their concerns focus on racial, economic and social justice, the environment, political and policy issues, racism and antisemitism and civil rights. You may sign up for their newsletters and materials, visit their websites to learn more about each, and receive their notifications in your personal email to stay informed.

Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism: urj.org or reformjudaism.org

Bend the Arc Jewish Action: jewishaction.us This is a progressive organization

Women of Reform Judaism: wrj.org

World Jewish Congress: worldjewishcongress.org

Rabbi Rayzel shechinah18@gmail.com A newsletter of the Jewish Renewal Community

Jewish Council for Public Affairs thejcpa.org

If you'd like to help with I-HELP or have Social Action recommendations, please contact me and we'll plan what works best for you.

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





Jewish Food Festival 2021

The Jewish Food Festival has been the signature event for Congregation Beth Israel. No other has done more to open the temple to the citizens of Monterey County – Jews and non-Jews alike.

The Food Festival Planning Committee has made the hard decision to change the format and have a “drive-thru” Festival this year. It is our hope that 2022, we will be able to bring the Food Festival back in its full glory.

Sponsor Benefits	Gourmet \$5000 +	Connoisseur \$2500 +	Foodie \$1000 +	Epicure \$500 +	Chef \$300 +	Sous Chef \$150 +
Booth Sponsorship	*	*				
Logo with Link on JFF Web Page	*	*				
Personalized Sponsor Sign at JFF	*	*	*			
Recognition on Festival Facebook	*	*	*			
Recognition on JFF Web Page	*	*	*	*		
Recognition on Sponsor Poster	*	*	*	*	*	*
Recognition on Festival Order Sheet	*	*	*	*	*	*

Email foodfestival.cbi@gmail.com or Call Malina 831.601.5791 or ~~Abra~~ 831.601.5773 with questions.

I wish to become a sponsor of the 2021 Jewish Food Festival at the level indicated below:

<input type="checkbox"/> Gourmet	<input type="checkbox"/> Connoisseur	<input type="checkbox"/> Foodie
<input type="checkbox"/> Epicure	<input type="checkbox"/> Chef	<input type="checkbox"/> Sous Chef

Name to be listed in festival materials: _____

Email and/or phone #: _____

Payment Options:

- Please make your check payable to Congregation Beth Israel and return with this completed form to Congregation Beth Israel, 5716 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel, CA 93923.
- Please charge my credit card:
- Name on Card _____ Credit Card # _____
Expiration Date: _____ CVV# _____
- Click the Donate Button at www.carmelbethisrael.org and include JFF in the description
- Or call the temple office (831-624- 2015)

NOTE: Congregation Beth Israel is a 501.c.3. Your sponsorship may be deductible for tax purposes.

Jewish Food Festival –
Congregation Beth Israel
5716 Carmel Valley Road,
Carmel, CA 93923
831.624.2015



Become a Volunteer

Our members have been very kind in giving time and effort to previous festivals. Please help us out again! Listed below are the options. You can send an email to either Gary Simon, GarySimonMonterey@gmail.com or Susan Greenbaum, greenbaumcarmel@sbcglobal.net. Please include the task for which you would like to help.

OUR NEEDS	WHEN	WHERE	# NEEDED	NOTES
Rugelach baking	July 18, 10 am to 1 pm	CBI kitchen	3	Bakers need to show proof of vaccination for Covid (only once) and masks need to be worn throughout the baking sessions.
Challah baking	July 25, 10 am to 1 pm	CBI kitchen	3	
Strudel baking	August 8, 10 am to 1 pm	CBI kitchen	4	
Pre-Orders	August 1 to August 21		2	Manage on-line pre-ordering.
Booth setup	Friday, August 20, 9 am to 4 pm	Front parking lot	8	This task can include heavy lifting.
Friday Packaging	Friday, August 20, 10 am to 4 pm	Social Hall	25	Package cookies, chopped liver, matzo ball, cheesecake, blintzes, knishes. This is a sitting job.
Saturday Packaging	Saturday, August 21, 1 pm to 5 pm	Social Hall	29	Package cookies, chopped liver, matzo ball, cheesecake, blintzes, knishes. This is a sitting job.
Traffic management	Sunday, August 22, 9:15 am to 3:15 pm	Top of driveway, front parking lot	12	Adults only, please.
Greeters	Sunday, August 22, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm	Top of driveway	6	Meet people at top of driveway, pass out menus and information sheets.
Ordertaker/cashier	Sunday, August 22, 9:30 am to 3:15 pm	Top of driveway	8	This is taking orders from those who have not done pre-orders. Some of these 8 may be diverted to processing pre-orders.
Kitchen / Deli	Sunday, August 22, 9:30 am to 3:15 pm	Kitchen	5	Only the deli group will be using the kitchen on Sunday.
Corned beef sandwich assembly	Sunday, August 22, 9:45 am to 3:00 pm	Social hall	3	Assemble corned beef sandwiches.
Pastrami sandwich assembly	Sunday, August 22, 9:45 am to 3:00 pm	Social hall	3	Assemble pastrami sandwiches
Bakery booth	Sunday, August 22, 9:30 am to 3:15 pm	Front parking lot	3	Bring baked good to visitors' cars.
Drinks booth	Sunday, August 22, 9:30 am to 3:15 pm	Front parking lot	3	Bring drinks to visitors' cars.
Dairy booth	Sunday, August 22, 9:30 am to 3:15 pm	Front parking lot	3	Bring dairy items to visitors' cars.
Latkes booth	Sunday, August 22, 9:30 am to 3:15 pm	Front parking lot	5	Package latkes and bring to visitors' cars.
Runners	Sunday, August 22, 9:45 am to 3:00 pm	assigned to various booths	10	Runners will be assigned to booths.
Refrigerator truck	Sunday, August 22, 9:45 am to 3:00 pm	Front parking lot	2	Assist runners in retrieving items from the refrigerator truck.
Booth teardown	Sunday, August 22, 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm		8	Break down and store booths.
Cleanup social hall, kitchen	Sunday, August 22, 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm		6	Clean social hall and kitchen.
Monday cleanup, including inventory	Monday, August 23, 10 am to 1:30 pm	Where needed	5	



UJC Donations

Daniel & Beverly Nussbaum: JFNA appeal

Steven J. & Ann B. Packer: UJC Donation

General Endowment

Clark Miller & Cara Lieb: in loving memory of
Cara's mother Ina Lieb

Safety Security Fund

Victor & Rena Feuerstein: In memory of Eve S.
Marks, Vic's mother & Cecil Spatz
Goldhammer, Rena's mother.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Barry R. Harrow

Jewish Food Festival Sponsorships

Nancy Callahan

Victor & Rena Feuerstein

Ellyn Gelson

Michael & Constance Kean

Thomas & Ellen G. Krause

Rosemary Lande

Bill Pardue & Barbara Mitchell

George & Lily Waissbluth

Edward & Mona Zander

General Donations

Senen & Alison Baguio

Monica Browning: in memory of her
grandparents Nellie & Len Ambrose

Nancy Callahan: in honor of Robert Taylor Fletcher III

David & Lois Epel

Ellyn Gelson: in honor of June Birthdays and
Anniversaries

Robert & Raya Hoskinson: in memory of Morris
Weintraub



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Stop by and say hello!

831-318-0306 | 1023 Austin Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

www.pacificgroveanimalhospital.com

BOARDING

Lewis A. & Sandra Leader

Diana Rosenthal: in memory of Robert A.
Rosenthal and Millard B. White

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Seidman: in honor of Ava &
Sara Martin becoming Bat Mitzvah

Gary & Judy Simon: in memory of Judy's
mother, Irene Lefkowitz, at the time of her
yahrzeit

Michael & Debora Waxer: in honor of Nina
Laub, and in memory of Anna Rivkin &
Sandra

Karen & Marty Wiskoff: in memory of Tom Shannon

I-Help

Marshal & Angelica Blatt

Arlene Krebs

Clark Miller & Cara Lieb



SAVE THE DATE
SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2021
The Jewish Food Festival is Back!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Judy Simon	1	Susan Krome Neben	15
Charlene Webber-Schuss	2	Cele Passin	18
Oscar Biblarz	4	Shelagh Baseman	17
Wendy Fried	4	Christopher Chambers	18
Michael Marcus	5	Joan Schiffer	19
Marilyn Bloom	8	Judi Lang	20
Joel Jacobson	9	Susan Simon	20
Jade Granbery	11	Angelica Blatt	21
Lenny Popky	13	Jennifer Stone	21
Carlos Ramirez	13	Madelon Zimmer	21
Adina Abeles	14	Andrew Sisolak	23
Bee Epstein-Shepherd	14	David Awerbuck	28
Rafael Lyons	14	Beverly Nussbaum	28
Penny Bard	15	Nico Vitiello	31

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Todd Hornik & Donna Shore	4
Howard Messinger & Leta McCarty Messinger	7
Richard & Marilyn Bloom	9
Joel & Bonni Weinstein	10
Jill & Jim Sleeper	11
Martin & Karen Wiskoff	12
Eric & Judi Lang	15
Leonid & Larisa Modorsky	17
Barry & Nancy Rund	29

Family News

We Mourn the loss of:

Tom Shannon, beloved partner of Marva Hoffman

May his memory be for a blessing.



Congregation Beth Israel
July 2021
Tamuz ~ Av 5781

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 6:00 PM Outdoor in-person Erev Shabbat Service with Birthday Blessings, also on	3 10:30 AM Torah Study @ CBI & on Zoom
4 INDEPENDENCE DAY 	5	6	7 12:00 PM Lunch with the Rabbi at Baja Cantina	8	9 6:00 PM Outdoor in-person Erev Shabbat Service, also on	10 10:30 AM Torah Study @ CBI & on Zoom
11	12	13	14	15	16 6:00 PM Outdoor in-person Erev Shabbat Service , also on	17 10:30 AM Gabriella Faybishenko Bat Mitzvah Service at CBI also on
18 10 AM – 1 PM Rugelach Baking	19	20 7:00 PM CBI Executive Committee Meets	21 12:00 P.M. Best Year's Lunch out at Baja Cantina 	22	23 6:00 PM Outdoor in-person Erev Shabbat Service, also on	24 10:30 AM Torah Study @ CBI & on Zoom 7:00 PM Havdalah on Carmel Beach
25 10 AM – 1 PM Challah Baking	26	27 7:00 PM CBI Board of Trustees Meets	28	29	30 6:00 PM Outdoor In- person Erev Shabbat Service w/ Anniversary Blessings, also on	31 10:30 AM Service & Torah Study Outdoors

THANK YOU

We Thank Our Tzadikim Members

We are grateful for all our members who support CBI. At this time, we offer a special thank you for the generosity of those members who contributed at the Tzadikim level in 2020-21. Their extraordinary generosity allows us to provide the robust programming that we all enjoy.

Deanna Adolph
David Awerbuck & Astrid Holberg
Marshal & Angelica Blatt
Malina Breaux
Barry & Randi Brookstein
Mark & Danette Crossgrove
Amanda Curtis
Michael Dicus & Catherine Winter
David & Lois Epel
Robert Fenton & Debra Givner
Ellyn Gelson
Diana Greenbaum
Jim Gumberg & Nina Patane
Ruth Hartman
Barbara Holland
Marsha Kelly
Kenneth & Shelley Kroopf
Rosemary Lande
Arthur Latimer
Laela Leavy
Alan Lefkof & Ann Gordon
Sam & Beryl Levinger

Gadi & Marlene Maier
Tobi & Michael Marcus
Clark Miller & Cara Lieb
Robert Moskowitz & Jeanette Stern
Daniel & Beverly Nussbaum
Jay & Ruthie Pack
Steven & Ann Packer
Steven & Karen Radin
Diana Rosenthal
Jennie Rubinshteyn & Yaroslav Faybishenko
Corrina Joan Rucka
Stephen & Wendie. Ryter
Jim & Natalie Sammet
Jason & Julie Schnitzer
Matthew Schuss & Charlene Webber-Schuss
Susan Schwartz
Susan Shapiro-Rosen
Susan Simon
Dan & Ellen Weiner
Eby Wold
Edward & Mona Zander



Torah Connections:

Vol. 158 July 2021, 5781 By

Michael L. Waxer

The conflict of peace

In the portion of Pinchas, near the end of Numbers (Bamidbar), Pinchas takes bold action, commits an act of violence, which stops a plague that was destroying the young Israelite nation, and God rewards him with a **covenant of peace**. In the 21st century it can be difficult to reconcile this story.

To set the scene, the children of Israel were lured into an orgy by the Moabite women, and a leader of the tribe of Shimon, Zimri, made a public display of this behavior in front of Moses, by taking Cozbi, a Moabite princess, into his tent. Moses and the elders are in shock, but then Pinchas takes the initiative, reminds Moses of the law, and receives his permission to enter the tent. With his spear, called a **romach** in Hebrew, Pinchas killed both Zimri and Cozbi which stopped the plague that had begun to devastate the camp.

Pinchas is awarded a **covenant of peace**, and this is a singular occurrence in all of Tanach. As a unique incident it tasks us to understand how can a very violent act result in God making this **covenant of peace**.

We should first examine the word peace in Hebrew, **shalom**. The first letter of **shalom**, the **shin**, is shaped like a flame and represents fire. The last letter of **shalom**, the **mem**, is shaped like a body of water and represents water. In the physical world these two, opposite, elements represent the inherent conflict in achieving peace, represented by this inclusion of fire and water.

The word for heaven, **shamayim**, contains a **shin** (fire) preceding the word for water, **mayim**. **This represents a deep concept, that in heaven fire and water dwell in a state of harmony and peace.** In the physical world, however, fire and water are incompatible, they are in conflict: Water extinguishes fire, and fire evaporates water. This dualistic nature is also a description of our physical world.

Perhaps one reason it is so difficult for humans to have a true and lasting peace is that in this physical realm we allow this inherent conflict to rule. When God bestows this '**covenant of peace**', the word for peace,

shalom, has a unique 'broken' **vav**, one of the four letters of the word. This broken letter is perhaps a reminder that peace in the physical world is fragmented.

But let's get back to Pinchas's bold action. The spear he used, the **romach**, using **gematria** (where every Hebrew word is also a specific number) adds up to **248**. You might recognize this number as the number of positive commandments given in Torah (613 total, with 365 negative and 248 positive commandments), which is also associated with the number of bones in the human body. This higher level (**remez**) of reading the text indicates that Pinchas was filled with pure and positive motivations, not with ego or ulterior motives. This word, **romach**, appears only this one time in all of Torah.

This story instructs us that sometimes a bold action is necessary to usher in peace. With each movement towards peace we do, in a manner of speaking, bring this physical world closer to the spiritual world. Some might phrase this as 'heaven on earth'. Although we might be repulsed by the violence in the story, certainly by our standards of today, there is a strong association in Torah where we are directed to separate ourselves from evil, or to wipe out an evil influence in our midst. We can all remember that the way the Allies achieved 'peace' from Germany and Japan in WWII was through violence, which was necessary to stop the murder of the innocent masses, particularly Jewish people, being tortured and massacred by an evil regime.

I am reminded of the common bumper sticker, *War is not the answer*. Well, for Hitler and Nazi Germany, war **was** the answer, as evil needed to be destroyed to save the innocent.

This story of Pinchas should remind us that an individual can make a difference, and a bold initiative is sometimes the right thing to do. Having a pureness of spirit, with your body and soul in alignment, is one of the clues that you might be on the right track.

This concept of alignment, of creating daily activities that allow our soul, our neshama, to align with our physical bodies and actions, is connected to this concept of 'heaven on earth'. Doing the right thing, participating in the 248 positive commandments, are all ways to align our spirit and body, and to bring us closer to real peace. B'Shalom.

This Torah Connection was inspired by Rabbi Trugman's 'Orchard of Delights', 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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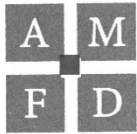
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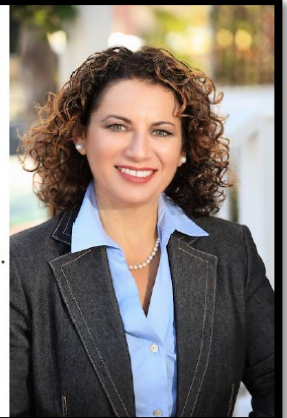
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Parshiot

July 3, Pinchas

T: Numbers 25:10-30:1
H: 1 Kings 18:46-19:21

July 10, Matot-Masei

T: Numbers 30:2-36:13
H: Jeremiah 1:1-2:2

July 17, Devarim

T: Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22
H: Isaiah 1:1-27

July 24, Va'etchanan

T: Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11
H: Isaiah 40:1-26

July 31, Ekev

T: Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25
H: Isaiah 49:14-51:3