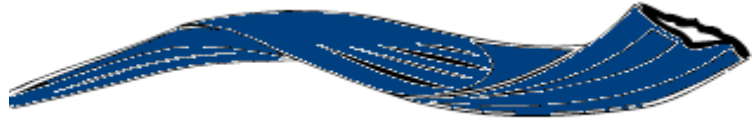


SHOFAR



Monthly Newsletter of the Monterey Peninsula Jewish Community

www.carmelbethisrael.org

HIGH
HOLY
DAYS



High Holiday Highlights

We are fast approaching the 5782 High Holiday Season. As you will see, there are many dynamic plans that will enrich our Holy Days. We are excited to share that Cantorial Soloist Suzanne Guinane and Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum will lead multi-access services this year. Unless something changes, we hope up to 200 people who are fully vaccinated and masked will join us in person for services in the sanctuary/social hall. For joining us in person, CBI members will be given priority over guests. **CBI members are asked to RSVP to attend Holy Day services in person by calling the CBI office or email shalomcbi@aol.com.** We are also going to provide an online option for those who are not vaccinated or who choose to participate virtually. On both Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur days we will hold a family/children's service outdoors in our lower lot. All are welcome to join these family/children services (no age limitations). The two family/children's services will not be offered online.

As with last year, you are welcome to come by CBI and borrow prayer books for both Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur.

Please see pages 5 and 8 for additional information.

Jewish Food Festival 2021



Our drive-thru event was a great success due to the work and support of so many sponsors and volunteers.

None of this would have been possible without the energy, enthusiasm, superb organization, and endless hours of our JFF chair Malina Breaux.

Special thanks to:

- River Gurtin for conceiving this new format and creating and testing the traffic flow.
- Michael Breen of Breen Consulting for creating our online order system.
- Jillian Heisman for managing all the publicity & marketing.
- Gary Simon, with the help of Susan Greenbaum, recruiting and coordinating almost 100 volunteers to complete the many tasks necessary for an event of this scale.
- Susan Schwartz, with her years of JFF experience and willingness to do whatever needs doing.
- Rabbi for building the village, taking down the village, and doing customer service in between.
- Abra Teitler for her successful sponsorship campaign.
- Andrea Carter for graphic design.
- Todd Hornik for taking on traffic management
- Bari Tolliver who organized a team to manage the order flow.
- Julie Chase and Abby King for managing the office and JFF communications.
- The Meatery in Seaside!!!!

See page 9 for a complete list of all who participated.



From the Rabbi's Desk...

About a month before the High Holy Days (the time when I am writing this message) I find myself humming the Holy Day melodies.

As I take out my Mahzor (Holiday Prayer Book) and start reviewing the service with our Cantorial Soloist, the songs and prayers overflow into my daily thoughts. I cannot help myself. The music is so beautiful and the prayers so inspirational.

At the same time I also reflect on the past year and my actions as a husband, a father, and as your rabbi. Where did I miss the mark (*Chey*t)? What could I have done better? Did I use Covid-19 as an excuse, not accomplishing all that I could do? With each decision that I made, was I helping or hurting God's creation? Did I miss opportunities to help others? Did I add joy and comfort to all my interactions with those around me?

These are some of the many questions that at times haunt me, and at times guide me as I enter into our season of *Teshuvah*. Knowing the answers helps me formulate a plan for how I can continue to grow as a person as I enter this New Year 5782. None of us is perfect, certainly not I (said with a heavy sigh). We all can do better. The question is will we do better? What will we do to improve our lives in this New Year?

Struggling with some of these issues? May I suggest you select just one or two projects to tackle that will benefit others. Find a *tzedakah* activity that speaks to you and make it a regular commitment. I find my weekly work at Abraham's Tent soup kitchen lifts my spirits and carries me through the rest of my week. Last month my volunteer work with the Food Festival brought me (and I think lots of other people) much joy. If you are struggling to find a project, give me a call. Together we will find the right activity for you that will add meaning to year life in this New Year.

The annual meeting (last month) and the Holy Day Season (this month) serve as a reminder to me of the passing of another year in my life. I thank God that

I am aging. I do not like the alternative! Of course this aging thing is not for the young at heart. Body parts ache and the memory is not as quick as it used to be. Someone greets me and I struggle to remember their name. Instead of feeling fully refreshed I find myself sore in the morning from "sleeping wrong." But I try to recognize the wisdom this passage of time brings me. Maybe I have finally learned not to sweat the small stuff. I no longer stress over those things of which I have no control. I find myself quicker to forgive others and have learned how important those words "I'm sorry" can be to others.

If I have wronged you this past year, please forgive me. It is highly likely I did not do it on purpose. If I have made a mistake that hurt you, please forgive me. If I have not been the rabbi you needed sometime this past year, let me know; let me apologize, and help me grow as together we start this New Year.

My wife Susan and my three daughters join me in wishing you a Happy and Healthy Jewish New Year. May each of us be inscribed for a year of growth and personal well-being. I pray this Holy season brings all of us peace of heart, mind and soul. Amen.





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

L'shana tova--- a good new year

As we turn the page on this past year, it is good to remember that **Am Yisroel Chai --the People of Israel Live!**

WOW, what a year!....COVID, ZOOM, US elections, four Israeli elections, stock market, Gaza War,....anything else??

Yet...**Am Yisroel Chai --the People of Israel Live!**

Here we are, again, at the beginning of a New Year, coming together to be a community, to support each other, to wish each other L'Shana Tova, and to pray. We are the Jewish community on the Monterey Peninsula, *so, welcome, l'shana tova, and a happy and healthy new year to each of you and to your families and friends.* **Am Yisroel Chai --the People of Israel Live!**

I'm grateful for those who currently **serve and have** served, with a special thank you to those who are completing their terms of office...Bob Fenton, Jim Gumberg, Cara Lieb, Scott Lyons, Ruth Lyons, Julie Schnitzer,.... and those coming on to the Board, Beryl Levinger, Steve Goldberg, Ilana Entin, Lois Epel.....This flow of people who willingly give of their time to serve the Jewish community on the Monterey Peninsula is another example of **Am Yisroel Chai--the People of Israel Live!**

I want to express my appreciation to our Executive Director, Julie Chase, and our office administrator, Abby King, and a special shout out to our new (well, not so new, but NO ONE has ever had a first year as she has had) cantorial soloist and religious school director, Suzanne Guinane..... I look forward to working with the board of trustees, with Rabbi Greenbaum, with Cantorial Soloist and Religious School Director Guinane, as well as with all of you as congregants and friends of CBI.

I try to keep in front of me the MISSION of CBI, that is, *to be a welcoming and inclusive center for Jewish life in the Monterey Peninsula area.* The Union of Reform Judaism (URJ) talks about *audacious hospitality*--- making all feel comfortable and welcome. Here at CBI, we have developed a membership system, which is an open door through which everyone is invited, and everyone becomes a member if they pledge to support CBI with a donation, large or small. Basically, it is an honor system in which we are honored to have you as part of our membership, and you are honored to help us meet the obvious needs of our

community and support the continuity of our mission. Has it been working? A reasonable question to ask is "have we suffered financially from people saying 'oh, well, someone else will pay?'" NO, au contraire, your generosity has been better than the pre-pledge system, whether measured by participation levels or overall revenues, a solid testimony to the wisdom of the approach. Todd Hornik, Malina Breaux, Cara Lieb, and Rabbi get kudos for having championed this approach. So, I can say with confidence that our audacious hospitality is working well, both in terms of hospitality and financially.

We have made very large strides in strengthening the safety and security of our building and the people within it; There are upgrades to our infrastructure, including cameras and locks and vehicle barriers disguised as planters, and...and...other stuff.....and, we are addressing --along with everyone else in the Jewish community, indeed in the country, indeed in the world- the critical question of how to live and thrive in a post-COVID world. All this is done by our staff, Julie and Abby, and by volunteers, the Safety and Security Committee, headed by Michael Marshal, the pre-opening Committee, headed by Sandy Leader, and those that support them. Our community is interested and supportive and enthusiastic. Indeed, **Am Yisroel Chai --the People of Israel Live!**

Perhaps we will also have to continue to reinvent how we operate, how we pray, how we maintain our community in this post-COVID time, as we have had to do for the last roughly year and a half. It is often not what we wish to do, but the future is going to be different, and we will need to think about ways to accommodate necessary changes in our Jewish community. I ask that you contact me with your ideas and thoughts as we cope with life in the world of COVID.

Please know that even though our commitment to saving life requires us to find ways to maintain social distance, we can still remain close to CBI as our spiritual center, and we can provide CBI with our support – physical, spiritual, and financial-- as much as we are able. All of us will be enriched by the experience, and we'll continue to ensure l'dor v'dor, passing on our traditions from generation to generation.

May all our efforts to improve security and return to normal inter-personal activities bring us peace....and may you and your families have a healthy and happy New Year, l'shana tova, and remember....**Am Yisroel Chai --the People of Israel Live!**

Shana Tova

Dan



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

"T'shuvah, T'filah, Tzedakah, that's what we're gonna do. T'shuvah, T'filah, Tzedakah, for me and for you..."

T'shuvah, T'filah, Tzedakah is my new life preserver as I continue to do my work to prepare for the new year as our uncertain times continue with COVID-19, the Delta variant, wildfires, the uptick in anti-Semitism and so much turmoil and unrest throughout the world. I like Rav Kook's translation of *t'shuvah* – go home.

We have an opportunity to give ourselves the gift to go home to our hearts and souls and listen with love as we review the past year to see how we responded to ourselves, life, people, and situations. *T'filah* – to pray. We can pray with words, song, dance, cooking, baking, knitting, sitting in the silence, walking on the beach, hiking, enjoying our beautiful sun rises and sun sets and/or our beautifully starry evenings. *Tzedakah* – charitable giving, helping others. I'd like to suggest that this year we do all of these for ourselves first in hopes of beginning to refill, replenish and nourish our hearts, souls and bodies followed with working outward towards others and the world with love..... always with love (*ahavah*) and kindness (*chesed*). *T'shuvah, t'filah, tzedakah* are action steps for me amidst the uncertainty and turmoil, my life preserver I hold on to when I begin to feel overwhelmed.

Chesed (kindness) is the Jewish Value we will focus on September through November in our School and as a Congregation. We will embrace it, learn it, walk it with ourselves, as a congregation, in our homes our communities and the world. Each day reminding ourselves to use the lens of kindness in our thoughts, words and deeds as we do *tikkun olam* – repair ourselves and our world, one step at a time. *"T'shuvah, T'filah, Tzedakah, that's what we're gonna do. T'shuvah, T'filah, Tzedakah, for me and for you..."*

May this new year, 5782, bring us and the world peace, sweetness, joy, good health, and wholeness - *L'shana tovah*, a good year. May we be written in the Book of Life for good – *G'mar chatimah tovah*.

I hope you will join Rabbi and me for our Outdoor Family and Children's Services at 12:30 pm on:

Rosh Hashanah

Tuesday, 9/7/2021

Yom Kippur

Thursday, 9/16/2021

Registration is required. Please call our office, **831-624-2015**, to register for services.

Friendly School Reminders:

Sunday, 9/19

First Day of School

9:00 am – 12:30 pm Kindergarten – Grade 6

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm Alevnu Grades 7 – 12

No, it is not too late to Register! We would love to have you join us. Forms are available on our website, carmelbethisrael.org/learning

Please email me, suzanneg@carmelbethisrael.org, or call me, 831-624-2015 ext 16, and I will be happy to help you. We are so excited for this new year of learning together!

High Holy Days

5782 / 2021



A New Approach to our Yom Kippur Afternoon Service

This year we've invited Rabbi Jeff Schulman to co-lead our Yom Kippur afternoon service. While we'll continue to use our prayerbook as a guide, we'll interweave more poetry, music, movement, chant, and silence to create and be drawn into holy time together. Our goal is to honor and give voice to the diversity in understanding and belief we each bring, and from this create our own transformative, sacred moments. We begin at **3pm on Yom Kippur day, September 16th**. Please join us. Please remember, we require all those who attend in person to be fully vaccinated and to wear their masks.

Sukkah Building Family Fun



Students and parents are invited to join Rabbi Greenbaum and Cantorial Soloist Suzanne Guinane the first day of religious school, **Sunday,**

September 19 from 10:00-11:30 as we build and decorate our congregation's Sukkah. Adults will help build the main structure. Students will help create and hang decorations. If possible, bring a pumpkin or gourd to add to our Sukkah decoration! Feel free to bring canned goods that will be donated to the Monterey County Food Bank as well. Join us as we prepare for our Sukkot Holiday.



Simchat Torah and Consecration September 28

Few services are as exhilarating or uplifting as our Simchat Torah celebration. Join us in person with masks or on Zoom Tuesday evening, **September 28 at 7:00 PM** as we celebrate completing our Torah reading cycle and the start of a new school year. All our religious school students, their families, and all our members are encouraged to join us for this inspiring service.

Because of the ongoing concerns about Covid-19 and especially the Delta strain, we ask that all those attending in person to wear a mask. Only if we have enough people in attendance in the sanctuary, will we completely unroll a Torah scroll around the sanctuary before our Cantorial Soloist Suzanne Guinane chants the very end of Deuteronomy followed by Rabbi Greenbaum chanting the beginning of Genesis.

Part of this service will include a Consecration ceremony for our youngest and new CBI religious school students. Please join us for this special evening filled with celebration.

Please see page 7 for the complete High Holy Days schedule



Lunch with the Rabbi

It's fun to be together so let's meet at the restaurant again! If you are vaccinated, join Rabbi Greenbaum this month on **Wednesday, September 1 at noon** at an outdoor

table on the patio of Baja Cantina, located about a mile east of CBI, when he leads the lunch with the rabbi discussion. This month he will lead a discussion on "Planning for a New Year." With Rosh HaShanah less than a week after this lunch, what great plans do we have for 5782? Are you planning a special trip in the next 12 months? What change are you hoping to make in your daily activities? Is it a new exercise program or playing a new instrument? Are we finally going to clean out that closet or garage? Is it time for a new car? What is the next big step in your life? Come prepared to offer your thoughts. 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's been a long time since our Best Years group has enjoyed good kosher hotdogs. Let's join together on **Wednesday, September 22 at noon** for a delicious kosher hotdog lunch. With salads and chips and all the usual extras, it is a meal not to be missed. As it will be the second day of Sukkot, let's eat outside in our Sukkah! It's free for all our members but please make sure to reserve a meal for yourself. To RSVP for this lunch, call the CBI office at 624-2015. Please let us know if you need a ride to this event.



Join Us for Havdalah on the Beach September 25

We had to cancel last month's Havdalah on the Beach because of the terrible car week traffic. But let's enjoy the beach at the end of this month. How would you like a relaxing evening visiting with friends and relatives around our CBI fire pit and some nice singing? Join Rabbi Greenbaum and Cantorial Soloist Suzanne Guinane for our monthly Havdalah on the Beach Saturday night, **September 25**, on Carmel Beach below 13th and Scenic Drive. We begin at **7:00 p.m.** but you can come early and enjoy a picnic dinner before our Havdalah service. Rabbi Greenbaum will bring fixings for s'mores. You bring warm clothes, something to sit on, family pets, and musical instruments. This is a great event for young and old alike.

CBI GOES TO THE THEATRE - FOREST THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

Discounted Tickets Now Available through CBI
Call the CBI Office to make your reservations @ 831-624-2015



Shrek The Musical Great Family Fun!

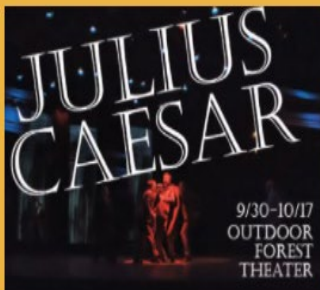
September 5th at 4:00 PM
Seating begins 90 min. before the show.
Parking is limited. Dress warmly and arrive early!

JULIUS CAESAR

Timeless Shakespeare!

October 9th at 7:30 PM
Seating begins 90 min. before the show.
Parking is limited. Dress warmly and arrive early!

[Click Here for Forest Theatre Covid 19 Info](#)





CBI Book Club

The CBI Jewish Book Club met in August for the first time since February 11, 2020. Thank you once again to Suellen Rubin for her hospitality.

The Book Club will not meet in September due to the High Holidays.

Here are our next two dates and book selections. We plan to continue to meet in person, but we will be watchful regarding the ever-changing status of the Covid-19 pandemic. Let us hope

October 12, 1:30 PM, location to be determined.
Book—BENEATH A SCARLET SKY: A NOVEL by Mark Sullivan. This book is long, so it might be wise to start reading it early.

November 9, 1:30 PM, location to be determined.
Book—THE TUNNEL by A.B. Yeshoshua

NOTE: All who attend must be fully vaccinated against the Covid-19 virus.



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.



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 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 OTHER'S FRIENDSHIP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



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Congregation Beth Israel

5716 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel, CA

HIGH HOLY DAYS SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Rabbi Bruce D. Greenbaum and Cantorial Soloist Suzanne Guinane

SLICHOT

(Preparing yourself for the Holy Days)

Saturday, August 28th

7:00 p.m. 2 Study Sessions

9:00 p.m. Service

ROSH HASHANAH

Monday, September 6th

7:00 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah

Tuesday, September 7th

10:00 a.m. Morning Service

12:30 a.m. Family/Children's Service

(outdoors only)

4:00 p.m. Tashlich on Carmel Beach
below 13th

Wednesday, September 8th

10:30 a.m. Second Day Service

friends from Temple Beth El in Salinas
are invited to join us

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, September 12

4:00 p.m. Memorial Service at

Mission Memorial Park,
1915 Ord Grove Avenue, Seaside

YOM KIPPUR

Wednesday, September 15th

7:00 p.m. Kol Nidre Service

Thursday, September 16th

10:00 a.m. Morning Service

12:30 p.m. Family/Children's Service
(outdoors only)

1:30 p.m. Holy Day Discussion
led by Beryl Levinger

2:30 p.m. David Sabih leads a
discussion on the Book of Jonah

3:00 p.m. Afternoon Service

*4:45 p.m. Yizkor Service

*5:30 p.m. Closing Neilah Service

*6:30 p.m. Break-the-Fast

CBI will provide challah and a variety
of beverages

***Times are approximate on Yom
Kippur afternoon**

SUKKAH BUILDING

Sunday, Sunday, September 19th

10:00-11:30 a.m. Sukkah Building

SIMCHAT TORAH SERVICE

Tuesday, September 28th – 7:00 p.m.

In person services will be limited to 200 fully vaccinated members.

Please call the office to reserve a spot.

All are welcome to join online.

Only the outdoor family/children's services will not be online.



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE THE JEWISH FOOD FESTIVAL A SUCCESS!!

Our Sponsors

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It does take a village!!



UJC Donations

David Sabih & Anna Swartley: In honor of Andy Schwartz

David Sabih & Anna Swartley: In Honor of Robert Fenton & Dan Nussbaum
Marvin Silverman

Greenbaum Youth Enrichment Fund

Kristen Awerbuck

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Steven & Robin Goldberg

Barry R. Harrow

Samuel & Gabriela Lipsky: in honor of the birth of granddaughter Hannah Beth in Maryland
Lester Tockerman

High Holy Day Donation

Rosemary Lande



**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

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Marvin Silverman

Imogene Speiser: In loving memory of my dear husband Zane & daughter Tegan

Abra Teitler

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Anita Artstein-Dunsay: in memory of Alex & Viola Dunsay

Nancy Callahan: in honor of Robert Taylor Fletcher III

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Ellyn Gelson :August Anniversaries & Birthdays

Victor & Sylvia Krimsley: In loving memory of Sam Weiner, Jr., Sylvia's Father

Cele Passin: In memory of Shirley Shapiro

Sarita Chavez Silverman: in memory of June Silverman

Gary & Judy Simon: in memory of Abram Simon at the time of his yahrzeit

Michael & Debora Waxer: in memory of Morris & Minnie Waxer, Howard & Louise Waxer



Bobbie Ehrenpreis

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New Year and New Actions

As we begin another year with hope, renewal and new commitments, we are also aware of the ongoing challenges that we face, locally, nationally & around the globe.

Our actions, large and small have consequences, which we always trust are for the “good.” Tikkun Olam. And so it is with our Social Action Committee, as we continue our ongoing commitments and initiate new ones. Perhaps your “new year resolution” will include participating with us. There are many ways to help.

Welcome Kits!

One of the consequences of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, are the Afghani families re-locating to the US. We’ve been informed by the International Rescue Committee that large numbers of these individuals are being settled in the greater Sacramento area. Obviously, they are in need of household goods and many items for their new homes, so here’s a “do-able” project for many of our congregation—Assemble Welcome Kits!

Items must be new or very gently used.

Examples of Basic Kits:

Dining Basics: 4 sets of silverware, dishes & glasses

Bedding Basics: Full size sheets & blankets; 2 Twin Size sheets & blankets

Kitchen Kit: Cooking pots, frying pan, baking dish, mixing bowl, a set of kitchen utensils, a can opener.

Bathroom Kit: 4 washcloths, 4 hand towels, 4 bath towels, shampoo, 4 toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shower curtain & hooks.

Donate Major Impact Items

Adult Work Bags—water bottle, lunch bag, a watch, wallet, notebook & pen etc.

Computers (less than 4 years of age)

Memory sticks

Bicycles

Appliances

Baby & Toddler Items—Car seats, strollers

There are many other examples of kits & items to assemble. It would be terrific if you’d choose one or Make a Donation directly online:

Amazon Donation Registry- <http://amzn.to/2kifES9>

Walmart Donation Registry- <http://bit.ly/2kuryQs>

Visit <https://justserve.org> to learn more about this initiative and other items and kits to offer. You may bring your items & Welcome Kits to CBI by October 1st, and we will ship these. Or you may mail your Welcome Kits directly to:

International Rescue Committee/IRC

2020 Hurley Way #420

Sacramento, CA 95825

THANK YOU CBI!

A Warm Welcome for the I-HELP Men

For the first time in over 18 months, we welcomed 9 men to CBI. Thanks to our wonderful team: Hugo Gerstl who joyfully played the piano as we prepped the meal and the men arrived. And to his lovely Lorraine for helping set the tables and serve dinner, which was prepared by Matthew & Charlene Schuss. Matthew slow cooked tri-tip for 10 hours! served with vegetables, mashed potatoes, and biscuits. Susan Schwartz baked brownies and purchased ice-cream for dessert and also provided the next day’s lunch. And Nancy & Barry Rund provided breakfast bags filled to the brim with morning goodies. Jax & I cheered everyone as we warmly welcomed the men, who well know Jax (who gets excited when he sees them) from the many months that we delivered foods where they were sheltered in place.

Another Event!

Mark Your Calendars for **Saturday, November 6th** for our discussion and panel remarks for Professor Blazakis’s talk: “White Supremacy Here & Abroad”. We are currently planning this as an on-site reception and talk, so please stay-tuned as plans evolve. This event is sponsored by Beth Cort and Marlene & Gadi Maier.

Wishing you and your family a happy, healthy New Year!

Arlene Krebs

Social Action Trustee

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jim Sammet	1	Richard Platt	16
Matthew Entin	2	Zane Stiebel	18
Barbara Kreitman	3	Phyllis Newman	19
Barbara Holland	5	Senen Baguio	20
Cynthia Koehne	5	Daniel Dau	20
Jonah David Kelton	6	Samuel Lipsky	21
Amanda Mello	9	Arlene Krebs	25
Laela Leavy	11	Richard Bloom	26
Alisa Fineman	13	Judith Levin	27
Marsha Kelly	14	Santiago Ramirez	28
Deborah Stewart	14	Gabrielle Rosenberg	28
Susan Gorelick	16	Kimball Hurd	30

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Kenneth & Shelley Kroopf	1
Michael Dicus & Catherine Winter	3
Steven & Barbara Neil	4
Jason & Julie Schnitzer	5
Michael & Constance Kean	15
Robert Fenton & Debra Givner	16
Leonard Laub & Yvonne Ascher	16
Michael Marshall & Kirsten Nicholls	16
Pauline & Anthony Troia	17
Harlan & Elizabeth Grogin	18
Richard & Margaret Harrit	21
Michael & Irene Krasner	22

Family News

Mazel Tov Sam & Gabriela Lipsky
on the birth of their
granddaughter Hannah Beth.

We Mourn the loss of Tiger

A great friend to Ellyn Gelson



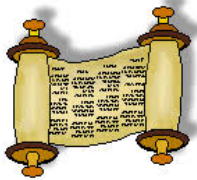


Congregation Beth Israel

September 2021

Av ~ Elul 5781

			1  12:00 PM Lunch with the Rabbi at Baja Cantina	2	3 6:00 PM Outdoor & in Person Shabbat Service with Birthday Blessings, also on 	4 10:30 AM Torah Study at CBI and on Zoom
5 4:00 PM CBI Theatre Event – Shrek at the Forest Theatre	6 7:00 PM Erev Rosh Hashanah @ CBI and on Zoom	7 ROSH HASHANAH 10:00 AM Morning Service @ CBI and on Zoom 12:30 PM Family/Children's Service @ CBI in the Back yard 4:00 PM Tashlich on Carmel Beach	8 ROSH HASHANAH 10:30 AM Second Day Service with friends from Temple Beth El Salinas @ CBI and on Zoom	9	10  7:30 PM Indoor Erev Shabbat Services at CBI also on 	11 10:30 AM Torah Study at CBI and on Zoom
12 MEMORIAL SERVICE 4:00 PM At Mission Memorial Park	13	14	15 Yom Kippur 7:00 PM Kol Nidre Service @ CBI and on Zoom	16 Yom Kippur PLEASE SEE PAGE 8 FOR THE COMPLETE SCHEDULE	17 7:30 PM Indoor Erev r Shabbat Services at CBI also on 	18 10:30 AM Torah Study at CBI and on Zoom
19 9:00 AM 1 st Day of Religious School 10:00 AM Sukkah Building 1:00 Aleynu	22	21 7:00 PM CBI Board of Trustees Meets	22 Noon Best Years Hot Dog Lunch in the Sukkah	23	24 7:30 PM Indoor Erev Shabbat Services at CBI w/ Anniversary Blessings, also on 	25 10:30 AM Torah Study at CBI and on Zoom 7:00 PM Havdalah on Carmel Beach
26	27	28 7:00 PM Simchat Torah & Consecration also on 	29	30	1 October 7:30 PM Indoor Erev Shabbat Services at CBI with Birthday Blessings also on 	2 10:30 AM Torah Study at CBI Zoom



Torah Connections:

Vol. 160 September 2021, 5781
By Michael L. Waxer

Science, History, and Torah

Many individuals make the mistake of approaching Torah study as they would read a book on history. One obvious problem with this is that as soon as one might find a conflict with what an academic historian would say, then it is easy to dismiss the Torah as outdated or irrelevant.

Similarly, some try to correlate their understanding of physical science to the Torah, and as soon as they find a discrepancy, they have found their reason to dismiss the Torah. Both of these approaches have serious flaws, as they both approach the Torah as a type of academic exercise, rather than a spiritual journey.

When one approaches Torah study as a pathway to draw closer to God (HaShem), we can begin to understand the concept of holiness (*kadosh*, separation), and to understand the physical and the spiritual. We may see that HaShem does things with purpose, which means we have purpose, and it is not too difficult to see that part of why we are here is to bring light into this world, to do good, to grow spiritually and help others grow spiritually in the process.

Approaching the Torah as a 'holy text' makes all the difference. By viewing the Torah as instruction by HaShem, it now is incumbent on us to understand the message. In order to do this, we have been given a set of tools, so each generation can make sense of the text. Surprisingly, many people choose to read the text only literally, and don't use this tool, called **PaRDeS**. The word '*pardes*' in Hebrew means orchard.

One simple clue to making sense of the Torah, is to recognize entry points to a larger understanding. As we begin, we all start by trying to understand the literal (*pshat*, the P of **PaRDeS**) words (or translated words). Soon enough, we might come upon a passage that doesn't seem to make sense to us. Take this as a hint to dig deeper and to read that passage at a higher level, the **metaphor** or **allegorical** (the *remez* level, the R of **PaRDeS**), the intervening **oral stories that connect the verses in the written Torah** (the *drosh* level, the D of **PaRDeS**), or the **Kabbalah** or **secret level** (the *sod* level, the S of **PaRDeS**).

Here is a passage that may be difficult to figure out, at the literal level:

"When HaShem your God will bring you to the Land that you come thereto to possess and He will cast away many nations from before you, the Hittite, the Girgashite, the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivvite, and the Jebusite, seven nations greater and mightier than you. And deliver them will HaShem your God, before you and you will defeat them you shall utterly destroy them, do not establish with them a covenant and do not show them favor."

(Deuteronomy [Devarim] Chapter 7:1-2.)

This sounds like a singular historical direction, but it is fair for us to ask, 'What is its relevance today?' The reason we need to constantly ask this question, is because if we approach the Torah as a **holy text**, and an instruction manual, **it needs to be relevant in every generation**. So, at the literal level, in discussing these seven nations, what does it mean today? Should we identify if there are any of these ancient peoples alive today, and should we continue to act on this? Or, was this a one time instruction that no longer has relevance today?

At a deeper level of understanding, maybe we can interpret this in a very different way, in a way that makes it very relevant today. To remind you of the context, this direction in the book of Deuteronomy comes right at the end of the forty years of desert wanderings. What if this verse is talking about **seven aspects of human nature**?

Most of us realize that we are comprised of two parts, the **physical** and the **spiritual**. We also know that throughout our physical life we struggle to channel or limit physical temptations, and this process of harnessing the physical can strengthen our spiritual self. **Throughout our lives we battle these physical forces, hopefully trying to strengthen our resolve, and we know this process builds character. And it also has a spiritual component.**

The seven nations are described as greater and mightier than us, but that HaShem will deliver them and that we will have the ability to destroy them. **What if these seven nations represent the equivalent of the 'seven deadly sins', the aspects of physical existence that can easily overwhelm an individual?** Gossip, speech that incites evil... perhaps this is represented by the *Amorite*, which may be hinted via the word, '*amor*', related to the word meaning 'says'.

Other human weaknesses include gluttony, promiscuity, jealousy. **Perhaps this passage is telling us, and in every generation, that we need to conquer these human weaknesses, and that HaShem will help us to defeat them, our own personal demons, so to speak.** And, to go one step further, this occurs after forty years of us struggling in the wilderness, in other words that we try for many years to master our temptations. After earnest effort of gaining this mastery, HaShem will help us confront these temptations, and to spiritually soar.

Seven nations representing seven human 'weaknesses' we are to defeat? Temptations of various types that cause us to spiritually descend, giving in to base desires, things that we know are harmful but we justify the momentary pleasure as being worth the longer-term suffering. Is this section of Torah intending to let us know that this is the human condition, but we can overcome these shortcomings, and HaShem has our back, so to speak?

Instead of skipping over difficult sections, or worse dismissing them, consider seizing the opportunity to **read the text in a deeper way**. There are so many tools available from the PARDES system to insights from our sages, passed down to us over the past 3,000 plus years.

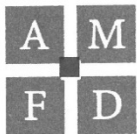
May you each be blessed in your study of, and understanding, of the Torah, HaShem's instruction manual for each of us.

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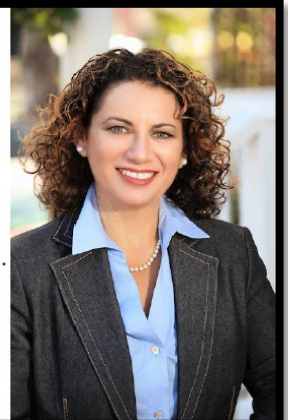
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Chartered in 1954 as the Jewish Community of the Monterey Peninsula, Congregation Beth Israel today serves the spiritual, educational, and social needs of Jews on the Peninsula. We derive programming and administrative strength from our affiliation 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.

Senior Staff

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

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2021-2022**

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Parshiot

September 4, Nitzavim
T: Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20
H: Isaiah 61:10-63:9

September 11, Vayelech
T: Deuteronomy 31:1-31:30
H: Isaiah 55:6-56:8

September 18, Ha'azinu
T: Deuteronomy 32:1-52
H: II Samuel 22:1-51

September 25, Sukkot
T: Exodus 33:12-34:26
H: Ezekiel 38:18-39:16