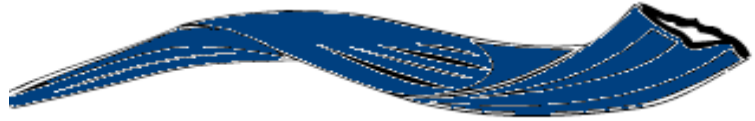


SHOFAR



Monthly Newsletter of the Monterey Peninsula Jewish Community

www.carmelbethisrael.org



Simchat Torah October 11

Few services are as exhilarating or uplifting as our Simchat Torah celebration. Join us on Zoom **Sunday morning, October 11th at 10:30AM** (note the special time) 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 uplifting service.

As we prepare for this service we want you all to participate. You can video record on your phone your family members dancing with a consecration or other small Torah, prayer book, or other ritual items. Then send your video by WhatsApp to rabbibruce@aol.com. You can call Rabbi Greenbaum and schedule a time when he will record you (one household at a time) dancing around our CBI sanctuary with our Torah scrolls. Each recording should last about 1-2 minutes. Then we will edit all of them together which we will enjoy viewing in the middle of our Simchat Torah Celebration.

Near the end of the service Cantorial Soloist Suzanne Guinane will chant the very end of Deuteronomy followed by Rabbi Greenbaum chanting the beginning of Genesis. While we cannot unroll the entire scroll this year, still we can celebrate together with dancing and singing. Chag Sameach! Happy Holiday.

Simchat Torah: Customs and Rituals

The symbolic message of the customs associated with Simchat Torah emphasize that the Torah represents our heritage and history, and links Jews to each other over many generations. The words recited at the end of reading each book of the Torah inspire and represent this history: *Chazak, chazak, v'nitchazeik*. "Be strong, be strong, and we will strengthen each other," building a living Judaism through study, action, and commitment.

During pre-COVID congregational Simchat Torah celebrations and services, the Torah scrolls are taken from the ark and carried by congregants around the synagogue seven times. During these seven hakafot, those not carrying a Torah often will wave brightly colored flags, sing Hebrew songs and dance. The singing, dancing, and flag-waving that accompany the *hakafot* symbolize the collective joy of Torah study and a commitment to lifelong Jewish learning.

The Torah service is the focal point of the Simchat Torah celebration. One rabbi, cantor, or member of the congregation opens the Torah and reads the last section of the fifth and final book of the Torah, *D'varim* (Deuteronomy). A second person then opens another Torah scroll and reads the opening section of the first book of the Torah, *B'reishit* (Genesis). The selection from *D'varim* tells of the death and legacy of Moses, the prophet and leader of the Jewish people. The reading from *B'reishit*, the very first words of the Torah, recounts the story of God's creation of the world.



From the Rabbi's Desk...

As I write this the High Holy Days are less than a week away. I know as you read this they will have already ended. So how did they go? Did we have technology issues?

Were the pre-recorded parts able to merge with the live feed without making the services too awkward? I feel comfortable sharing with you that the stress level before this Holy Day season was rather high for me. While I am always concerned about the sermons, this year I was also nervous about all the technological issues and of course everyone's safety. Four days before Erev Rosh HaShanah we were still waiting for the plastic sheet dividers that would separate our Cantorial Soloists and me on the bema. At least the dividers in front of the keyboard and the tech's table had already arrived and been assembled.

I tried to relieve some of the pressure I was feeling by reminding myself of the message from that wonderful book, "Don't sweat the small stuff." The challenge of course is nothing seemed small as we approached our Holy Day season! The Holy Days themselves are not small. Safe distancing because of Covid-19 is not small. Opening our religious school in a zoom format is not small. Organizing both the services and the opening of the school with our new Cantorial Soloist and Educator and building our new clergy team was not small. The Air Quality Index number was not small, making it impossible even to go outside and get a little exercise.

To be honest, I was not sleeping well and started to feel the stress in my back. One of my friends suggested I use the serenity prayer. Most of us know it well. While the origins and original author of this prayer are debated, it is popular both in the Catholic Church and been adopted by Alcoholics Anonymous. I believe it is a prayer all of us can embrace. The version I like is, "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference. "

Friends, let's use this prayer to guide us through these troubling times. I cannot control any

technological issues we might have next week, but I can certainly accept that we have done everything possible to prepare for our Holy Days in advance. We found a knowledgeable tech specialist and purchased new equipment like our high-resolution camera. We even held rehearsals to make sure everything was working smoothly. If glitches happened, hopefully I was able to accept them.

I cannot make Covid-19 disappear but I can take steps to minimize the harm it causes. I wear a mask when I am out and about. I social distance in public. Despite some protests, I have kept our CBI building closed to prevent potential spread among our members. With courage I have asked my daughter Liotte to teach me and all our teachers multiple online games to play with our religious school and Hebrew language students.

Join me in changing those things that we can change. Wear a mask. Find new ways to use technology to connect with friends and family. In our next election VOTE for leaders who will lead our country during these challenging times. Take the steps you can to change the things you can. And let's support one another as we learn to accept the things we cannot change. I pray this New Year 5781 is filled with positive changes for all of us. Amen.





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

We have started this strange High Holy Days season, and for all its differences with “normal” times, here is the good news: we know that we are still, in the words of our Mission, the *welcoming and inclusive center for Jewish life in the Monterey Peninsula area*, and that we can still make our traditions work. Yes, there are, we admit, some distinctly different modes of operation, but we are adjusting and keeping our traditions.

I want to pick up on a theme that I started in my last column, namely my belief in *audacious hospitality* and *unalloyed optimism*. As an example of the latter, I know we all agree that we are in a very challenging time, and so it is very easy to practice our inalienable Jewish right to kvetch. But, in these challenging times there are great opportunities, and within those opportunities we have already seen a lot of good news.

A great example is the recent establishment of the *CBI Loan Program*. Here we are, entangled in a pandemic, locked down, with economic and psychological stresses all about us, and David Sabih steps up with a wonderful idea and a complementary contribution to establish a no-interest loan program for individual CBI members and their businesses. The details are in Arlene Krebs’ Social Action article in this Shofar. Arlene is at arlenekrebs123@gmail.com, and applications are available from CBI’s Administrative Assistant, Abby. My grateful thanks to David for conceiving and initiating such a wonderful Jewish initiative, as well as to Rabbi Bruce, Arlene, and Bob Fenton for their *unalloyed optimism* in bringing the program to fruition.

A *brava* to Beryl Levinger for her great teaching series “*Who was that masked Jew?*”, which she developed and delivered as part of our high holiday season. Her first session, of three, was delivered as part of the Selichot service, and, as always, Beryl presented

challenging and addressable issues, completely in consonance with the season. Thank you, Beryl.

The Safety and Security Committee (Michael Marshall, Marshal Blatt, Alex Bordetsky, Lenny Popky, and Vic Feuerstein) in coordination with Julie Chase continue two critical initiatives: Developing post-COVID protocols for when we return to normal times; and driving us to deliver the projects that are specified in our grant from the California Office of Emergency Services. We have sent out solicitations for proposals and bids for three efforts, and we are close to initiating the first contracts.

As we continue to rely on technology to deliver on our mission and support our community we could use some help and expertise with our website and social media. Gen Z? Millennial? If you’re interested please contact the office at shalomcbi@aol.com.

Everyone -- Rabbi, our religious school director and cantorial soloist Suzanne, and our staff, Julie and Abby has been hard at work to deliver Services and School within social, medical and Zoom norms. This is a stiff task even in normal times; today, they get three cheers for their fine work.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Shana Tova and my hope that we can all Stay Safe,

Dan Nussbaum





Lunch with the Rabbi

Join Rabbi Greenbaum this month on **Thursday, October 8 at noon** online as he leads a relaxing and fun virtual gathering discussion on "Our Favorite TV Shows." Other than the news, what do we like to watch on television? It could be sports, reality shows, game shows, movies or series. We can share favorite classic TV like "Leave it to Beaver" or "To Tell the Truth." What Westerns did you love? What made us laugh or cry or kept us in suspense? Let's have fun sharing while we enjoy our lunch that we prepared for ourselves. No RSVP is needed. Just look for the link to this meeting which will be in the CBI Weekly eblast. Click on the link and join our zoom discussion.



CBI's Back Yard

You're invited! Call up your Chavurah, or a couple friends and plan a picnic. Many groups have discovered that setting up chairs in a large circle (safe distancing) on our blacktop below our building is a great place to visit. There are already some tables and chairs just waiting for you. Some have brought lunches or wine and snacks to enjoy while supporting each other. Our lower lot is pet friendly (leashes suggested and please pick up after your dogs) and open every day. Call the rabbi if you want him to stop in for a short visit as well. He'll even help lead a discussion if you want. You are welcome to take advantage of this prime meeting space that allows for safe distancing while still socializing.



We Thank Our Members Who Have Made Their 2020-21 Pledges During the Past Month

Alden & Deanna Adolph
Jane Bednar *
William & Myrna Brandwein
Megan & Robert Felthoven
Elaine Gallup Conner & Robert Conner
Richard Gerber & Laurie Kleinman
Robert & Sandra Kohn
Julianne Leavy & Charles Knight
Marc & Carol Lieberman
Seth & Naomi Pollack
Steven & Jennifer Prager *
Stanley Semmel
Neil Ticker
Sandy Wagner *
Todd & Veena Waldman
Mitchel & Deborah Winick
Eby Wold

* Welcome to our new members



Talent Show on Zoom

The last few years we shared an awesome talent show in our sanctuary. We've enjoyed singers and dancers and musicians and even the rabbi's humorous story telling. Should we try it on line? Later this year we will use a room in our home as our stage and perform before our cameras (computer or phone or?). Who wants to demonstrate their talent this year? We all know CBI members have talent. Call CBI board member Bob Fenton at 818-645-3972 if you want to put your name on the list of potential performers. The date will be determined when we gather on zoom for this evening of talent!



General Endowment

Eby Wold

Safety & Security Fund

Marshal & Angelica Blatt in memory of Hilda Blatt
Dr. Alex & Galena Bordetsky

Cantorial Restricted

Jill & Jim Sleeper in loving memory of Ken Perkins
Michael & Debora Waxer in honor of Morris &
Minnie, Udel, & Tamar

College Scholarship

David Sabih & Anna Swartley in honor of Judy
Masliyah
Wendy & Andrew Schmidt in honor of David Sabih &
Anna Swartley for their kindness & generosity
Jill & Jim Sleeper in honor of Anna Swartley & David
Sabih
Jill & Jim Sleeper in honor of Judy Masliyah

LeRoy Kohn Adult Education Fund

Seth & Naomi Pollack in memory of Adeline Kohn

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Barry R. Harrow
Ida Holber in loving memory of Stephen
Barry & Debra Kassels
Samuel & Gabriela Lipsky in honor of Suzanne
Guinane
Eby Wold in honor of Alisa and Louise

General Donations

Ken & Debby Baseman in memory of Arnold & Sarah
Borenstein & Joseph & Ida Baseman
William & Myrna Brandwein in memory of Myrna's
father Joseph Kessler
Andrea & Noel Carr
Bee Epstein-Shepherd in honor of Nico Vitiello's Bar
Mitzvah
Ellyn Gelson in honor of September birthdays &
anniversaries

Ellyn Gelson in memory of Malina Breaux's father
River Gurtin, Diana Case-Gurtin, & Andrea Carter in
memory of Beatrice Baskin-Gurtin
Rosemary Lande in memory of Reynold Bean,
Malina's father
Rosemary Lande in thanks for the High Holy Day
music: Liz Baseman, Suzanne Guinane, Pauline
Troia, and all other contributors
Gadi & Marlene Maier
Clark Miller & Cara Lieb in blessed memory of Clark
Richardson Miller and Robert P. Lieb
Richard Rosen & Susan Shapiro-Rosen in honor of
Louise Riddell-Kaufman and the religious school she
directed
Richard Rosen & Susan Shapiro-Rosen in memory of
Darryl Pollack
Wendy Rosenthal in honor of Rabbi Greenbaum
Wendy & Andrew Schmidt David Sabih & Anna
Swartley for their kindness & generosity
Rabbi Jeffrey Schulman & Susan Alnes in memory of
Pearl K. Schulman
Lester Tockerman in memory of Jose Ortiz
Eby Wold in memory of Sam Goldeen

Religious School Donations

Sarita Chavez Silverman

Family News

**We mourn the loss of Reynold Bean, beloved
father of Malina Breaux.
May his memory be a blessing to us all**

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Gloria Beil-Phillips & Jason Phillips	11
Seth & Naomi Pollack	14
Brynie Kaplan-Dau & Daniel Dau	18
Vivi & Paul Fenwick	25
Ms. Selina Glater & Cheryl Crose	27



ZOOOOMING Along with Social Action!

We are zooming into the New Year with activities, events and a new program!

Zoom with RAC & Prop 15

The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism convened a zoom gathering so that individual congregations that find themselves more or less “isolated” from other nearby synagogues, can organize social action events and share information among a group that now comprises 10-15 congregations. One purpose is to look at statewide issues and create a common ground of understanding and action.

Forum on Proposition 15: RAC-CA is not taking a pro or con position on Prop. 15. Rather, it is planning to shed light on the proposition and the issues it addresses with “clear information, Jewish wisdom, and dialogue. The lack of funding for California’s schools and essential local services is a profound problem in California. Is Prop 15 a good solution? What does the measure actually do? What Jewish perspectives might inform this vote?” Zoom in and Learn!

Zoom Tuesday, October 6th, 7:00pm: This Forum will help make sure all Reform Jews in California can cast an informed ballot on this important resolution. Please sign up: www.rac.org/CAforum

You can learn about RAC’s recommendations on other Propositions on the November ballot, here:

<https://rac.org/take-action/rac-your-state/rac-ca/california-ballot-measure-positions>

Every Voice, Every Vote—Learn about The Reform Movement’s 2020 Civic Engagement Campaign

<https://www.rac.org/take-action/congregations-communities/rac-civic-engagement-campaign-2020>

CBI’s New Loan Program!

Thanks to David Sabih’s foresight and generosity, we are starting a remarkable initiative for CBI members. Members may apply for no-interest loans up to \$500 for themselves or their business. Loans may be used to support rent, utilities, medical costs or other requirements that you or your business may have.

David kicked off this fund with a \$5,000 contribution and has generously offered to match any additional donations towards our new program! This is a robust beginning to a CBI initiative that over the years can prove significant as we strengthen ties in our community by supporting one another.

President Dan Nussbaum has asked Rabbi Bruce, Bob Fenton, our Adult Education Trustee and myself to oversee this program. Please contact me if you have questions, or would like to contribute to the fund, or need more information. Applications are available from CBI’s Administrative Assistant, ever resourceful Abby!

Food for Those in Need

I read in a recent *New York Times* article, that with the impact of the global pandemic, over 350 million individuals worldwide are food insecure. We understand this locally with astounding statistics from the Food Bank and other organizations involved in providing foods. CBI is involved in 3 programs to help ease food insecurity for unsheltered individuals and people in need—The Food Bank, I-HELP & Abraham’s Tent. Many thanks to our CBI members who make this possible.

The Social Action Committee Needs You—I-HELP Updates!

CBI needs more of our members to assist with I-HELP for Men and Women. There are ways for you to participate. Contributing funds is one. Cooking is another!

How’s about turning all those hours at home into a “baking fest” and prepare desserts, cakes, cupcakes, &/or cookies. This would be a great activity for the children. Or, what about preparing a casserole or favorite recipe? We’d love to include homemade foods for our I-HELP meals! And the Social Action Committee can support your home-cooking efforts with shopping and money! The upcoming I-HELP

Men’s dates are: Sundays October 4 and November 1st & November 30th for the Women. We’d so appreciate your participation—please contact me.

Eleven men continue being sheltered at a Monterey Church. CBI’s Board of Trustees hosted the men’s meals over Labor Day weekend. Cara Lieb organized a turkey dinner, mashed potatoes, vegetables & dessert prepared & delivered by Wild Plum, and Julie Chase organized the following day’s breakfast and lunch. Many thanks to them & to the BoT for its financial support!

The Social Action Committee will organize the October 4th Men’s I-HELP. Matthew and Charlene Schuss will be cooking up a hearty dinner, and I will organize the breakfast and lunch foods. If you’d like to help, (how about desserts!) we’d welcome your participation.

The Lambourne Institute for Life Mastery provided the August 29th I-HELP Women’s Chinese dinner catered by the Great Wall restaurant on Munras Ave. When the owner heard that this was for I-HELP women, she generously donated other foods for a very reasonable price. Currently, there are 4 women in the group plus 3 monitors.

The Food Bank Barrels!
We had many shopping bags loaded to the top! The barrels are full. Thanks to everyone who contributed foods. Much appreciated.

Abraham’s Tent!
Rabbi Bruce reports that Abraham’s Tent is up & running, and ready for a few volunteers to help prepare the Thursday night dinner which hosts about 100 unsheltered individuals. Please contact our Rabbi to learn how you may assist.

Wishing you a healthy New Year—and meaningful, fulfilling Social Action!
Arlene Krebs
Social Action Trustee <arlenekrebs123@gmail.com>



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sara Hinds	1
Barry Kassels	3
Margaret Harrit	5
Barbara Neil	7
Marva. Hoffman	8
Kristin Orliss	8
Donald Pompan	8
Maureen Chodosh	10
Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum	12
Robin Pelc	12
Robert Block	13
David Ehrenpreis	14
Ruth Rubin	14
Richard Baguio	17
Evan Womble	17
Jeannette Stern	17
Amanda Freedman	18

Robin Goldberg	18
Stuart Chase	19
Lizbeth Davis	19
Diana Jacobson	20
Tricia Popky	21
Philip Sammet	21
Shel Lyons	24
Roger Shiffman	24
Kate Popky	25
Mindy Maschmeyer	26
Jesse Entin	26
Jason Schnitzer	27
Evan Vitiello	28
Fred Cohn	30
Yoshimi Ishii	30
Scott Lyons	30



Congregation Beth Israel

October 2020

Tishri ~ Cheshvan 5781

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>All CBI services, programs, & classes Accessible online or by phone. Look for links in the weekly edition of CBI this Week via email. Links for Religious School and Hebrew School provided by Teachers.</p> 				1	<p>2</p>  <p>7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services with Birthday Blessings via Zoom</p>	3
<p>4 Sukkot 9:30 AM Religious School Opening Day</p>  <p>I-Help Men (off site)</p>	5	6	7	8	9	10
			4:30 PM Hebrew School 6:00 p.m. Aleynu	 <p>12:00 PM Lunch with Rabbi</p>	7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services via Zoom	10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study via Zoom
<p>11 Simchat Torah 9:30 AM Religious School 10:30 Simchat Torah Service</p> 	12	13	14	15		17
			4:30 Hebrew School		7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Services via Zoom	10:30 AM Shabbat Service & Study with 7 th Grade via Zoom
18 9:30 AM Religious School	19	20	21	22	23	24
		6:30 PM Executive Committee	4:30 Hebrew School 6:00 PM Aleynu		 <p>7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services via Zoom</p>	10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study via Zoom
25 9:30 AM Religious School	26	27	28	29	30	31
		7:15 PM CBI Board of Trustees	4:30 Hebrew School 7:30 Worship Committee		7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services with Anniversary Blessings via Zoom	10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study via Zoom

CBI Religious School



When I say *moadim l'simcha*, you say *Chagim uz'manim l'sasson!*"

Sukkot is one of my favorite Jewish holidays! It is a joyous holiday and begins at sundown on Friday, 10/2. Since it lasts for a week, we switch from *Chag Sameach* (Happy Holidays) to the

greeting above in the middle of the week. *Moadim l'simcha* translates to "times for joy" and *Chagim uz'manim l'sasson* translates to "holidays and times for celebration". (We also use this greeting for another holiday. Do you know which holiday?)

We build a temporary hut called a *sukkah*. Our hut represents the temporary dwellings our ancestors built and lived in during the 40 years in the wilderness after the exodus from Egypt. A *sukkah* has 3 sides and the roof is covered with branches, leaves, twigs, etc. so we can see the stars through the roof at night. We call the branches, leaves, and twigs *s'chach*. One of my favorite Hebrew words because it is so much fun to say! Give it a try!

Sadly, we are not able to put up our CBI *sukkah* due to Covid-19. If you're not able to build a *sukkah* outside in your yard, maybe you can build a small one using an empty shoe box or popsicle sticks and place it on your table when you eat inside and/or outside. Be creative. Think outside of the box. I would love to see pictures of your *sukkah*! Would you please email them to me at suzanneg@carmelbethisrael.org ?

Ushpizin is an Aramaic word meaning guests. During *Sukkot*, we can invite invisible guests into our *sukkah*.

Remember how we invite Elijah into our *seder* during *Pesach*? Same thing with *ushpizin*. Who will you invite into your *sukkah*? How will you invite them into your *sukkah*? I will invite my Dad, of blessed memory, one night and bring his picture into my *sukkah*.

Do you know what Jewish holiday comes after *Sukkot* and officially ends our High Holy Day season? Why yes, *Simchat Torah*! I love this holiday, too! Dancing with our *Sifrei Torah* (*Torah* scrolls) is so much fun. You can join in the fun, too. **#1** – Call Rabbi Bruce to schedule a time for your family to come into our Sanctuary and be videoed dancing with the *Torah* OR **#2** – Make your own 30 second video of your family, at home, dancing with maybe the small *Torah* scroll you received at your Consecration, one of our High Holy Day prayer books, etc. and whatsapp the video to Rabbi Bruce. It will be edited together with the other videos and be part of our *Simchat Torah* Service on Sunday, 10/11/2020, at 10:30 am.

Friendly reminder – Religious School begins virtually on Sunday, 10/4/2020, and Hebrew School begins virtually on Wednesday, 10/7/2020. Haven't registered yet? No problem. Call the office (831-624-2015) or go to our website at carmelbethisrael.org, click on Learning at the top of the page, then click on Religious School and click on Returning Student or New Student. It's that simple. You may call me with questions, too, at 831-624-2015.

Chag Sukkot Sameach!

Suzanne





Torah Connections:

Vol. 149 October 2020, 5781

Michael Waxer

The secret of God

The ‘high holy day season’ which ushers in the Jewish New Year, isn’t just a New Year’s celebration. This is an annual opportunity for the Jewish people. This series of holidays are, perhaps, **the key to how we rejuvenate ourselves.**

In the portion of **Bo**, we have this interesting verse:

“This month will be for you the beginning of the months, it will be for you the first of the months of the year” (Exodus [Shemot] 12:1)

This happens to be the 1,820th verse in the Torah. Using gematria, where each Hebrew letter is a number, and so each word is also a number, we find that the Hebrew word for ‘secret’, **‘sod’** has the numeric value of **70**. As you might already know, the numeric value of HaShem’s four letter name, the name that we traditionally don’t pronounce but instead say ‘Adonai’ or ‘HaShem’ (Lord, or, literally, ‘The Name’), is **26**. Seventy multiplied by twenty-six yields **1,820**.

There happens to be a verse in the Tanach in which these two words, *secret* and *HaShem*, appear, and it is Psalms 25:14:

“The secret of God is for those who are in awe of Him”

Diving into this mystical level, one could now interpret this renewal process as being associated with **‘The secret of God’**. A key aspect of societal degradation is the deterioration of values, lack of purpose, making life monotonous. This annual re-start process has the ability to keep life fresh. It allows us to be on a journey thru life that allows us to grow, **not just physically but spiritually.**

To help make this even more poignant, would you believe that the exact number of times that HaShem’s name appears in Torah is.... you guessed it, **exactly 1,820 times!** Wait, there is more.

In the morning prayers we state, **‘He renews in His goodness every day perpetually the work of creation.’** This concept of constant renewal happens to comport to our understanding in science, wherein subatomic particles continually burst in and out of existence and somehow animate the foundations of physical reality.

Said from a Jewish perspective, HaShem is perpetually renewing the work of creation... not unlike our understanding of what science can now theorize. In other words, constant renewal connects us to HaShem, which connects us to this ongoing creation on the physical level. **Spiritually, this opens up the idea that this renewal energy gives us continual rejuvenation and inspiration.**

An inspired way to think of renewal can be gleaned from seeing Adam’s name in the creation story, **as an acronym.** Rabbi Yitzchak Ginsburgh teaches, and as related by Rabbi Avraham Trugman in ‘Orchard of Delights’, that the three letters of Adam’s name, alef, dalet, mem, actually stand for:

Aleph- **Faith** (Emunah)

Dalet- **Knowledge** (Da’at)

Mem- **Action** (Ma’aseh)

Jewish rejuvenation is tied to this progression: That is, one must have faith, grounded in knowledge, and then act--based on both faith and knowledge.

Jewish faith is generally not ‘blind faith’. Jewish faith and knowledge are linked, so gaining knowledge will create insight that deepens faith, and vice versa. Now when we read the creation story in **Beresheet**, the first portion in the Torah, we can understand **Adam** as hinting at this acronym (Aleph-Dalet-Mem), giving us the tools, **today**, to renew ourselves.

With each High Holidays cycle that we are blessed with, we can refresh our **faith**, we can increase our **knowledge**, and we can then take **action**. Each new year we can take time to reflect, to pause, and to move forward. In this sense time can be seen as a spiral that keeps expanding upward. Each annual cycle creates the opportunity for us to have ‘risen’ one-time cycle, deepening our faith, increasing our knowledge, and reviewing our actions or lack thereof in the year that is ending.

Each of these steps are important; being open to **faith**, opening up to **greater knowledge**, and figuring out how to **take action**. All of these help us develop spiritually and brings us closer to HaShem. **Key steps to this spiritual rejuvenation include not having other gods which we bow down to or serve, following the mitzvot, and studying Torah.**

Shanah Tovah, and may you each be filled with blessings.

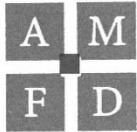
This Torah Connection is the sole responsibility of the author and specifically does NOT necessarily reflect those of the Board of Trustees of CBI, CBI, its membership, Reform Judaism, or Judaism. Please send any comments to the author at: mlwaxer@sbcglobal.net

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

Senior Staff

Bruce Greenbaum - *Rabbi, D.D.*
 Suzanne Guinane – *Cantorial Soloist &*
Director of Education

Julie Chase- *Administrator*
 Abby King- *Administrative Assistant/Facility Use*
Coordinator
 Ruby Cohan-*Bookkeeper*

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 Herb Stern, *Honorary Life Trustee*

Parshiot

October 3, Sukkot

T: Exodus 33:12-34:26

H: Ezekiel 38:18-39:16

October 10, Shemini Atzeret

T: Deuteronomy 14:22-16:17

H: 1 Kings 8:54-66

October 17, Beresheet

T: Genesis 1:1-6:8

H: Isaiah 42:5-43:10

October 24, Noah

T: Genesis 6:9-11:32

H: Isaiah 54:1-55:5

October 31, Lech Lecha

T: Genesis 12:1-17:27

H: Isaiah 40:27-41:16