



ANNUAL PROGRAM

2020-2021/5781



CONGREGATION
BETH ISRAEL
קהילת בית ישראל

Daily Services

& Weekly Classes

Services

Outdoor Services

CBI holds regular weekday and Shabbat services, in outdoor spaces, following public health guidelines. Please consult our website for locations for weekday and Shabbat outdoor services, as well as for Shabbat times. Advance registration is required for in-person attendance.

Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat

CBI joins for Kabbalat Shabbat over Zoom before candle lighting, singing the traditional Kabbalat Shabbat tunes together (through Lekha Dodi). Please consult our website for times.

Weekly Classes

Sunday - Friday // 8:45am - 9:00am // via Zoom

Daily Mishna

M. Victoria Sutton

Join us to learn a Mishna together, particularly in lieu of saying kaddish for departed loved ones during this time. This is a meaningful way to mark a yahrzeit and or honor a loved one during the first year of mourning.

Mondays // 12:00pm // via Zoom

Key Books in Tanakh: The Book of Kings

M. Victoria Sutton

The Book of Kings opens with David's succession by Solomon and the building of the Temple. The deterioration of the monarchy, through splits in the kingdom and less than noble kings, culminates in the destruction of Solomon's Temple at the book's close.

Wednesdays // 9:00pm - 9:30pm // via Zoom

Late Night Stories & Poems

R. Yonatan Cohen

Join us for a late night opportunity to learn rabbinic tales and contemporary stories and or enjoy liturgical poems and modern songs.

Fridays // 9:00am // via Zoom

Talmudic Wisdom

R. Yonatan Cohen

Join us for a weekly class on Tractate Chagigah that explores major Jewish questions of practice and thought.

Shabbat & Holiday Companion

CBI's Shabbat & Holiday companions include words of Torah, reflections, recipes and updates submitted by community members on the upcoming Torah portion or Jewish holiday. To contribute to an upcoming companion, please be in touch with Melissa Nathan or Naama Sadan.

Meets Monthly // Mondays // 8:00pm

CBI Process Group

With Beth Oelberger, LMFT

Please join us for an open and contained process group in order to connect with others during this stressful time. All are welcome! Facilitated by Beth Oelberger, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Expressive Arts Therapist, specializing in complex trauma and self-care.

CBI WhatsApp Groups

CBI Daily Torah

R. Yonatan Cohen shares a daily insight to the CBI Daily Torah Group. On Fridays, a Parsha video accompanied by a source sheet is shared as well. To join, please email the CBI Office.

CBI Connects

To join a WhatsApp group sharing positive insights and updates during this time of hardship, please contact the CBI office.

CBI Connected Families

To join a WhatsApp group sharing ideas for caring and creative parenting during this time of hardship, please contact the CBI office.

On the Shoulders of Giants



Tuesday, November 10 // 7:30pm

Moses Received the Oral Torah at Sinai: The Oral Torah in Rashi's Torah Commentary

Dr. Yedida Eisenstat

Dr. Yedida Eisenstat is Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Religion and the program in Jewish Studies at Colgate University. She holds an M.A. in Religion, Culture, & Values from York University and a Ph.D. from the Kekst Graduate School of the Jewish Theological Seminary where she studied Midrash & Scriptural Interpretation. Eisenstat is the author of "Taking Stock of the Text(s) of Rashi's Torah Commentary: Some 21st Century Considerations," and "Sanctification and Shame: Bialik's *In the City of Slaughter* in Light of Leviticus and Ezekiel," and her current book project explores Rashi's use of midrash in his Torah commentary.



Tuesday, December 8 // 7:00pm

The Literary Resourcefulness and Compositional Ingenuity of Biblical Narrative and Poetry in the Thought of Ramban

Dr. Michelle Levine

Dr. Michelle Levine is Associate Professor of Bible in the Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies at Stern College for Women. She holds an MS in Bible from the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies and a Ph.D. in medieval biblical exegesis from New York University. She has been awarded Jewish studies professor of the year (2011). Levine is the author of *Nahmanides on Genesis: The Art of Biblical Portraiture* (Brown University Press, 2009) and is currently writing on the wilderness narratives and on biblical songs from Ramban's literary perspective. Her article on Ramban's commentary of the Song of the Sea will be published in the upcoming *Torah U-Madda Journal*, and her article on the Matriarchs in Medieval Judaism appears in the *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*.



Tuesday, January 5 // 7:30pm

Abraham Ibn Ezra: A Careful Reader of Secrets

Dr. Sarah Labaton

Dr. Sara Labaton is Director of Teaching and Learning at the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America. Sara received a B.A. in Religious Studies from Columbia University and a doctorate in Medieval Jewish Thought from the Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at NYU. Sara was a founding faculty member of Yeshivat Hadar, where she developed a Bible and Exegesis curriculum.



Thursday, February 4 // 7:00pm

Mystical, Cyclical, Celestial, Profane: the Poetry of Solomon Ibn Gabirol

Dr. Peter Cole

Peter Cole is the author of five books of poems—most recently *Hymns & Qualms: New and Selected Poems and Translations* (FSG, 2017)—and many volumes of translation from Hebrew and Arabic, medieval and modern. Cole has created a body of work that defies traditional distinctions between old and new, foreign and familiar, translation and original. Among his many honors are an American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Literature, a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, a Jewish National Book Award, the PEN Prize in Translation, and a MacArthur Fellowship. He divides his time between Jerusalem and New Haven, where he teaches at Yale.



Tuesday, March 2 // 8:00pm

A Table with Many Settings: Law and Mysticism in the Writings of Rabbi Yosef Karo

Rabbi Ariel Mayse

Ariel Evan Mayse joined the faculty of Stanford University in 2017 as an assistant professor in the Department of Religious Studies, after previously serving as the Director of Jewish Studies and Visiting Assistant Professor of Modern Jewish Thought at Hebrew College in Newton, Massachusetts, and a research fellow at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies of the University of Michigan. He holds a Ph.D. in Jewish Studies from Harvard University and rabbinic ordination from Beit Midrash Har'el in Israel.



Tuesday, March 16 // 8:00pm

Chayei Adam – the Life of Man: Rabbi Danzig (1748–1820) and His User–friendly Literary Revolution

Dashiell Ferguson

Dashiell Ferguson was born in Berkeley and raised in Oakland. He is happy to be back in the East Bay after living many years in Washington Heights on Manhattan Island. He's been a fan of the Chayei Adam for almost twenty years, was moved to index the book, and is sometimes working on an English translation



Sunday, April 25

Honest to God: Truth and Faith in the Writings of Rebbe Nachman of Breslov

Rabbi Ami Silver

Rabbi Ami Silver, MSW is a teacher, psychotherapist and writer based in Jerusalem. His work focuses on the interface between text, spiritual practice and personal transformation. He leads groups in experiential study and practice in Jerusalem and online, maintains a private therapy practice and is a content writer for alephbeta.org. You can hear more of his Torah on the "Awakening" podcast, from the Shefa podcast network.



Sunday, May 30

Prof. Nehama Leibowitz: Twentieth Century Torah Giant

Yael Unterman

Yael Unterman is an international lecturer, bibliodrama facilitator, and author. She holds a BA in Psychology and MAs in Jewish History and Creative Writing respectively. Her books are *Nehama Leibowitz: Teacher and Bible Scholar* (2009 finalist, National Jewish Book Awards 2009) and *The Hidden of Things: Twelve Stories of Love & Longing* (2015 finalist, USA Best Book Awards). She has published numerous essays, stories, and reviews, and also created and performed a biblical solo show named "After Eden".



Sunday, June 6

A Tsaddik in the Shadows: The Radical Piety of Rav Shagar

Rabbi Levi Morrow

Born and raised in Southern California, Levi Morrow moved to Israel when he was 18. After studying at Yeshivat Orayta and Har Etzion, Levi received semikhah from the Shehebar Sephardic Center in the Old City of Jerusalem and an MA in Jewish Philosophy from Tel Aviv University. He wrote his thesis on Rav Shagar's use of Franz Rosenzweig's theology, and has also translated a forthcoming volume of Rav Shagar's derashot for the holidays. Levi teaches Jewish Philosophy in Jerusalem, where he lives with his wife and their two daughters.

Intersections between Halacha & Mental Health



3 Part Series // January–February

Rabbi Yoni Rosensweig

Rav Yoni is rabbi of the Netzach Menashe community in Beit Shemesh and is a renowned teacher of Halakha, Gemara and Jewish thought. From 2006-2009 he served as Rosh Kollel of the Mizrahi community in Melbourne, Australia. Upon his return, he headed Yeshivat Hamivtar, and then became Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivat Shevut Yisrael in Efrat, a post which he held until 2016. He currently teaches at Midreshet Lindenbaum. Rav Yoni has semikha from Rav Nachum Eliezer Rabinovitch and from the Chief Rabbinate of Israel, and degrees in education, philosophy and history. He is the author of "Yishrei Lev," a three-volume responsa on different halakhic questions, and of "Conversations in Essence," in which he engages in imaginary dialogue with great Jewish thinkers from the past.

Youth

Programs



Kindergarten – 5th Grade

Pre Shabbos Schmooze

Join Natan Kuchar each Friday afternoon to check-in and play games with CBI friends. We will share our oys, joys, and favorite toys from the week and will also discuss themes from the weekly Torah Portion.

Ages 0 – 5

CBI Youth YouTube Channel

Subscribe on YouTube

This regularly updated YouTube channel includes well loved songs, stories, actions, and games perfect for CBI toddlers and preschoolers.

Kindergarten – 12th Grade

CBI Youth Zine!

It's time to make our voice heard! There is so much creativity and passion in our CBI youth, and in our regularly published zine (that's a cool way to say 'magazine'), we are giving a space for all of our fantastic kids to shine. Each issue will feature illustrations, stories, poetry and other creations by CBI kids focused on Jewish calendar themes.

6th Grade – 12th Grade

Youth Videos

We are excited to invite our middle and high schoolers to start video producing short how-to videos designed for our youngest CBI members! Would you like to teach how to solve a Rubik's cube? Or maybe you want to share your favorite brownie recipe? Here's your chance to be featured on our CBI Youth Youtube Channel.

5th Grade – 8th Grade

Virtual Scavenger Hunts & Events

CBI will be running virtual scavenger hunt opportunities for middle schoolers in our neighborhood! Please check the website for upcoming events.

NCSY

NCSY's Latte & Learning initiative serves up Judaism in a relaxed, inspirational, and fun environment. L&L is the place for teens to ask questions, voice their feelings, and connect with each other. For September and October (at least), LNL will be virtual. Please email Rabbi Akiva Naiman for more info, or to set up virtual chavruta opportunities at naiman@ncsy.org

Connect

& Unwind



Tuesdays, 12pm - 3pm

CBI Mah Jongg Group via Zoom

CBI's virtual Mah Jongg group meets weekly and is open to players that know how to play and already have their National Mah Jongg Play Card. To join, please be in touch with Marti Zedeck.

CBI Virtual Bridge Club

Have you wanted to dust off those "virtual cards" and play bridge with a group of CBIers online? We play roughly every other week and are always looking for new players. To join, please be in touch with Noah Nathan.

CBI Sisterhood Book Club

The Sisterhood book group meets monthly on Zoom. Selections are mostly fiction and memoir, by Jewish authors and/or with Jewish content. Please be in touch with Desmid Lyon or Rita Kohl.

CBI Stitch Group via Zoom

CBI's Stich Group works on embroidery, crochet, knitting, and other textile projects. We have just finished an afghan project with leftover yarn which will be donated to a homeless women's shelter. During the pandemic meet on Zoom monthly or bimonthly meetings on different days and time to accommodate participants. For information please be in touch with Rose Ginsburg.

Zoom Shmoozes & "Happy Hours"

CBI members host monthly virtual get togethers, ranging from Zoom shmoozes to Zoom happy hours, to connect over a theme - trivia night, scotch tasting, and more. Consult CBI's website for upcoming events.

Exhausted Parents Zoom Happy Hour

Natan and Lili Kuchar host a monthly happy hour after kids' bedtime for *le'chayims*, games, and a chance to share ups and downs. Consult CBI's website for upcoming events. BYOB!

Makers-Nights via Zoom

Join CBI members monthly, on a Sunday evening, to learn a new skill - sushi, desserts, vegetarian delights, cheesemaking - and more. Consult CBI's website for upcoming events.

Social Justice



Dwight Way Shelter

CBI supports a monthly meal at Berkeley's Dwight Way Shelter. Due to COVID policies, the shelter is currently not accepting food or on-site volunteers, but still has a need for funds to feed the shelter guests. Please donate to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund to support this essential service to our wider community.



CBI Sock & Underwear Drive

Benefiting Youth Engagement Advocacy Housing

Between Rosh HaShanah and Simchat Torah, join us as we collect new (unopened, unused) socks and underwear for YEAH! Housed in Berkeley, YEAH! Provides shelter and support for at-risk homeless youth.



Alameda County Community Food Bank

Since the COVID-19 outbreak took hold, ACCFB has seen an unprecedented surge in need. Calls to the Emergency Food Helpline increased 1,000 percent. If you are able to make an additional gift this time of year, support of any amount is greatly appreciated. Gifts can be made directly to the Alameda County Food Bank.



Friends of Five Creeks

Sunday, January 24

Spruce up the Bay with Friends of Five Creeks in Honor of Tu BiShvat

A family friendly way to give back to the earth in advance of Tu B'Shvat, and give back to our East Bay community, by sprucing up a local waterfront site with Friends of Five Creeks.



**JEWISH FAMILY &
COMMUNITY SERVICES**
EAST BAY

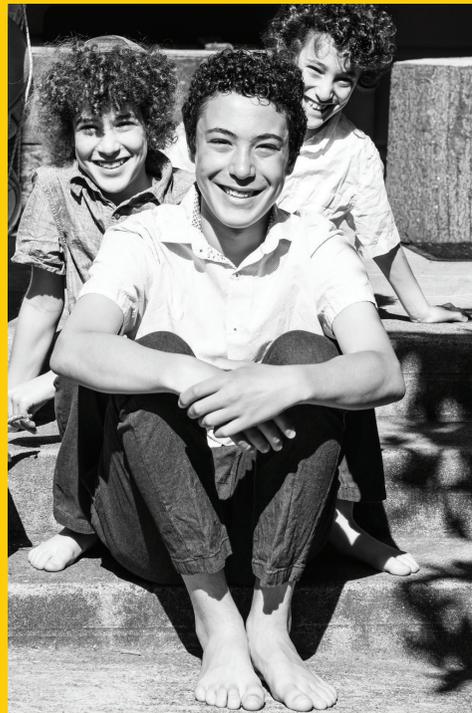
JFCS East Bay Basic Necessities Drive

During the Three Weeks between the 17 of Tammuz and Tisha Be'Av, CBI spearheads a Basic Necessities Drive in partnership with JFCS East Bay to support East Bay families and recent refugees whose livelihood has been particularly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Some families can't afford basic items and your help in providing items and funds is deeply appreciated.

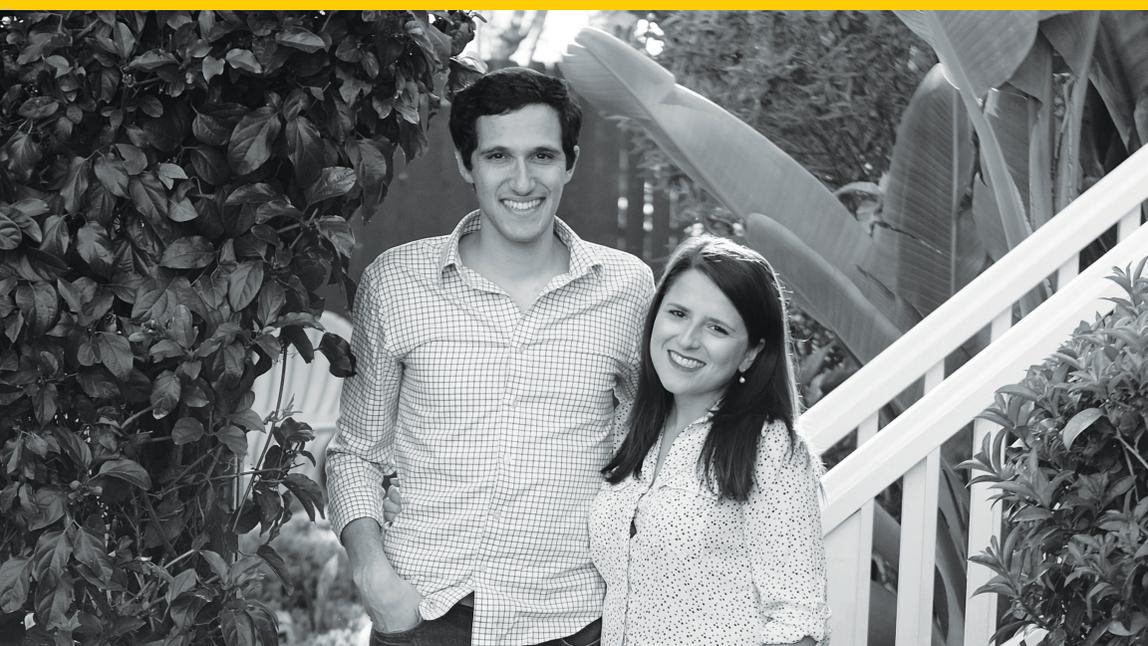
CBI at

Home











**CONGREGATION
BETH ISRAEL**

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