



Weekday Services December 7-11

Sun, 8:00 am • M-F 6:30 am
Mon-Th @ CBI 4:40 pm

Friday, December 5th

North Berkeley Minyan4:25 pm
1209 Shattuck Ave (east side of street, past Oak Park, near Eunice)
Candle Lighting4:32 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat @ CBI.....4:35 pm

Saturday, December 6th

Morning Service9:15 am
Torah Reader: **Udi Oster**
Haftarah Reader: **Philip Tendler**
Educational Childcare11:00 am
Yeladim: **Natan Kuchar**
Talmidim aleph: **Mira Kittner**
Talmidim bet: **Michal Goldfarb & Naama Mayzlish**
Sermon by Maharat Sutton: Vayishlah: Wrestling with Man and God
Mincha.....12:40 pm
Seudah Shlishit4:35 pm
Ma'ariv, Havdalah & Shabbat ends after.....5:34 pm

Kiddush Sponsors

Fran Alexander in memory of Ernie Alexander z"l

Hachnassat Orchim

Sara & Benni Darmoni



Jesse Kellerman discusses his new book

The Golem of Hollywood

Sunday, December 7, 11 A. M. at CBI

Join us for Green Tea, Goodies and Golems! Books will be available for purchase and Jesse will be happy to sign them



Sunday, December 7 at CBI

4:30 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv

5:00 pm Learning with Rav Ross Singer

Join Rav Ross Singer of Yeshivat Maale Gilboa at CBI for an exciting evening of learning! Rav Singer will be leading a shiur (details below) and light refreshments will be served.

Shiur Topic:

Imperfections that make us Whole — Inclusion in Jewish Life and Education

Beginning with a look at the exclusion of Cohanim with bodily deformations from the priestly service, Rav Ross will survey some of the philosophical and halakhic material that reframed these exclusions. Jewish legal material that reformulates the Biblical passages in less exclusive ways will be explored. This development from exclusion to inclusion will be presented as one example of an approach to Torah that expects halakhic and moral standards to progress in ethical sensitivity.

On Yeshivat Maale Gilboa:

Yeshivat Maale Gilboa's exciting approach to Torah emphasizes the notion that all of humanity was created in the Divine Image, passionately pursues

truth and intellectual honesty, and eagerly embraces the challenges and opportunities of the modern state of Israel.

On Rav Ross Singer:

Ross Singer has received rabbinic ordination from the chief Rabbi of Chaifa, Rabbi Shear Yashuv Cohen and the Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivat Maale Gilboa, Rabbi David Bigman and Rabbi Professor David Weiss Halivni. He is a graduate of the Mandel Jerusalem Fellows, a Hartman Institute Senior Rabbinic Fellow, and received an MA in Talmud and Rabbinics from the Jewish Theological Seminary. He has published articles in The Edah Journal, The JOFA Journal, and the Religious Kibbutz Journal Amudim. Ross served as Rabbi of Shaarey Tefilah Synagogue in Vancouver Canada from 1996-2004 years and Beth Tfiloh Congregation in Baltimore from 2006 - 2010. Making Aliya with his wife Emily and four children Rivital, Shai, Abaye, and Adin in 2010, Ross currently works as the development director of Yeshivat Maale Gilboa. He is also studying at Yad Ben Tzvi in Jerusalem towards becoming a licenced tour guide.

**Tot Kabbalat Shabbat and Dinner
December 19th at 4:30 PM**

Families with young children are welcome to join in a special Chanukah Tot Kabbalat Shabbat, with menorah lighting followed by Kabbalat Shabbat and dinner. \$15 for adults, \$10 for children.

<https://www.cbiberkeley.org/pray/holiday-calendar/tot-kabbalat-shabbat-dec-19/>

**Chanukah Game Night Saturday
December 20th at 7:30 PM**

Come celebrate Chanukah at CBI with menorah lighting, games of all kinds, sufganiyot, music and more! If you would like to organize a game, please contact Maharat Victoria Sutton at maharatvictoria@gmail.com

Beth Israel Classes

SUNDAY

Hebrew Reading Crash Course: Always wanted to learn to read Hebrew? CBI is excited to offer NJOP's Hebrew Reading Crash Course. Learn to read Hebrew in only five 1-1/2 hour weekly sessions. The Hebrew Reading Crash Course concentrates on teaching the Hebrew alphabet and reading skills. Free of charge. To register, go to our website <http://www.cbiberkeley.org/learn/adult-education>. Please email maharatvictoria@gmail.com with any questions.

Maharat Victoria Sutton, December 7, 14, 21, January 4, 11, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

MONDAY

Women's Dance Nights at CBI! Come dance to a blend of world music, jazz, klezmer, hip hop and more. No moves to remember, no cost either. Just a chance to let loose and get some good exercise in a fun way!
2nd & 4th Mondays @ 8:00 pm

TUESDAY

Conversion - Rejection, Acceptance, Embrace

In this two part series we will examine several philosophical texts that reveal a variety of attitudes towards the process of conversion, from strong rejection to warm embrace. Our sessions will particularly focus on the Rambam and R. Judah Halevi, and the divergent worldviews their writings support.

R. Yonatan Cohen, Tuesdays, December 2 & 9, 7:30 pm

Please refrain from wearing perfumes or scented products as there are congregants for whom these products are an irritant due to allergies or as a result of chemotherapy or other medical treatment. Thank you.

WEDNESDAY

Midrasha's Tanach and Talmud (for Teens): This course is an informal but intensive study group focusing on close thematic readings of the Tanach and Talmud in translation.

David Henkin – Wednesdays, 4:15 - 5:45 p.m.

Jewish Writings of Emmanuel Levinas: The Levinas Study Group meets at 8 pm at the Schweig home to discuss various essays of the Jewish philosopher Emmanuel Levinas. No background necessary. The class is facilitated by our resident scholar, Muni Schweig at his home.

Muni Schweig - 1st, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays 8:00 p.m.

THURSDAY

Open Sources: A Beit Midrash sponsored by Congregation Beth Israel and Kevah: Learn independently with a *hevruta* (study partner) or join in a *shiur* on the weekly *parsha* with Maharat Victoria Sutton. If you are interested in finding a *hevruta*, email Maharatvictoria@gmail.com.

Thursdays, 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.

FRIDAY

Talmudic Wisdom: Join us for a weekly class that explores key *sugyot* (talmudic units) that discuss major Jewish questions of practice and thought.

R. Yonatan Cohen - Fridays, 9:00 a.m.

EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

In Beth Israel

Mazal Tov! to Melissa & Guy Harel on the birth of a baby boy. Mother and baby are in good health, b"n. The community is warmly invited to a brit milah this Monday, December 8 at 8:00 am at Congregation Beth Israel. May this child's life be filled with the insights of Torah, the warm and supportive love of family and community, and the blessing of good deeds. Mazal Tov!

SCRIP: Naomi Stamper and Ruth Wittman, are available to sell scrip for Berkeley Bowl, Peets Coffee, Afikomen and CVS. Please call or email Naomi Stamper, 525-8259 • Ruth Wittman, 525-9530

Donate your car/boat/vehicle to Beth Israel/Midrasha. Full tax write off. Beth Israel/Midrasha share proceeds from sale. Contact David: 510-849-0961 or Midrasha: 510-843-4667.

In the Community

Homeless Shelter: In this time of thanksgiving, the volunteers who donated their time to creating and serving a sumptuous feast at the Berkeley Men's Homeless Shelter Wednesday deserve a *yasher koach*. They are **Carol Cunradi, Rona Rothenberg, Preston Grant, Yaakov Harari, Deborah Shaw, Bella Barany, Linda Levine, Kathleen & Talia Bloom, Doreet & Coby Stein, Margie and (our educator) Rabbi Simcha Green**. You can support CBI's Men's Shelter dinners by donating to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund and/or signing up to help out. Our next dinner is Wednesday, December 24.

You are invited to the Chanuka special: Saturday Night Live! with Chassidic Masters

Two sessions: Teachings ON Chanukah

With: Reb Eliahu Klein noted author and teacher of Chassidut and Kabbalah.

Where: At the Klein-Scheinberg Home, 2610 California St [between Parker-Carleton]

Date/ Time: Saturday Night December 6th 2014-7:30 PM

Next Session Dec.20th Fifth Night of Chanukah

R. Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev, R. Nachman of Breslov, R. Noson of Breslov, R. Mordechai Yoseph of Ishbitz and the Holy Baal Shem Tov

Gan Shalom teacher Miriam Raziell's Album Release Concert in Berkeley! Please join Miriam on Saturday, December 6th, 7:30 -9:30 pm, Chochmat Halev, 2215 Prince Street, Berkeley California. For more info please check out www.miriamraziell.com or <http://chochmat.org/miriam-raziell-album-release-concert/>

Israel Gap Year and Summer Programs Fair.

More than 20 programs will be presenting this Sunday for an amazing Jewish Summer/Gap Year Fair! Don't miss out!

11:45-1:45, December 7th, 1301 Oxford Street, Berkeley at Beth El \$4,000 discount on NCSY/JSU programs TJJ, TJJA, and TJJAP
R.Akiva Naiman, NCSY/JSU Director, naimana@ncsy.org 510-206-5386

Sephardic flamenco fusion, w/Rivka Amado, Itamar Shapira & Hilit Maniv, Sunday, December 7, 7 pm, \$15. @ Chochmat Halev, 2215 Prince St., Berkeley. www.rivkamusic.com

Berkeley Moshav and Cohousing Tour: Would you like to live on a real moshav, right here in Berkeley? A group is currently forming to create Berkeley Moshav, a 20- to 25-household "Jewish cohousing" community in walking distance to Congregation Beth Israel. To find out more, or to sign up for a tour of local cohousing communities on **Sunday, December 14**, please visit urbanmoshav.org/

Oakland Hebrew Day School: Bring your preschooler to enjoy our Open Art Studio with Hamora Laurie! Have fun with construction, collage, printmaking and more. This event is for children 4-5 years old.

Tuesday, December 16, 3:00 - 4:00pm, Art Studio, OHDS

Please RSVP to Philippa Lichterman as spots are limited:
plichterman@ohds.org

NCSY

December 18-21 Regionals Shabbaton at the Hilton San Diego. Spots are limited.

Save the date: January 3rd, from 7:30-9:30 pm we will be having an epic Bubble Sports Competition!! For more information, naimana@ncsy.org.

Afikomen Judaica LIVE. SHoP. SHMooZE.

3042 Claremont Avenue Berkeley 510-655-1977 www.afikomen.com
MELITA & ISAAC CHANUKAH PARTY, Sunday December 21, 11:30am-5:00pm, Sing-a-long Concert 11:30am, Public Menorah Lighting w/ Rabbi Chaim 4:00pm, Nosh and Activities All Day

SUSAN ROANE presents HOW TO WORK THE ROOM Interactive Workshop; Get your mensch on for Networking, Socializing & Job Advancement for the New Year with Best Selling Author Susan Roane Sunday January 18, 3:00pm

Thank you for Shopping Local!

Shir Appeal Concert @ CBI – Save the Date: On Saturday evening, January 3, 2015, the Jewish cappella group from Tufts University, Shir Appeal, will be returning to Beth Israel for a repeat concert. Booking will open soon. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children, with a maximum of \$30 per family.

MOSHAVA MALIBU - Register Early & Save! Bnei Akiva's coed religious overnight camp has excellent sports, arts, water sports, nature & more. Grades 3-10. Session: July 13 to Aug 10, 2015. Irvine Visit www.moshavamalibu.org or call 855-MOSHAVA for more info.

The Szarvas Fellowships for students completing 10th and 11th grade: this program provides exceptional North American student leaders with the opportunity to attend the world's largest Jewish summer camp and celebrate Jewish life. The camp is kosher and shomer shabbat. Scholarships are available through the SF Jewish Community Federation. <http://tinyurl.com/sf-jewishfed>. Please contact Lisa Pavlovsky with any questions - LisaP@sfjcf.org. Applications are due February 11, 2015. www.szarvas.org.

Kosher Sandwiches @ UC Berkeley: Freshly made kosher sandwiches will be available at 11:30 am Monday through Fridays at the following locations: Crossroads at the Den (Channing & Bowditch), Golden Bear Cafe, and Cafe Ramona. Choices available: one meat, one poultry, and an egg salad. For any questions, contact Avraham Burrell avraham@mindspring.com.

Israel Focus

For your interest, information, protest, or counter-protest *Israel Focus* is designed to inform our members about a broad range of local area events concerning Israel. It is expected that you will find events that you would support and others that you would not, yet we trust that they will all inform. *Beth Israel* does not necessarily endorse any particular event.

High School Conference on Israel and the Middle East

Mayacamas Ranch Calistoga, CA
(Kosher catering by Chabad of Santa Rosa)
Friday January 16, 2015 at 4:00P-to-Sunday January 18, 2015 at 4:00 PM
<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e9snzocda2580e01&llr=vjxq4ilab>

We invite you to submit announcements for inclusion in Israel Focus to the office at office@cbiberkeley.org. Announcements will be edited for length and content (to comply with the Announce List Guidelines).