



Weekday Morning and Evening Services

March 20-24

Morning: Sun 8:00 am • Mo-F 6:30 am
Evening: Sun, M, Tu, Th: 7:00 pm—W 6:00 pm

FAST OF ESTHER – TA’ANIT ESTHER

Wednesday, March 23rd

Fast begins 5:46 am
Fast day Mincha 6:00 pm
Ma’ariv followed by Megillah reading : Na’aman Kam 7:30 pm
Fast ends 7:52 pm
Late Megillah reading: Udi Oster (details sent by request to office@cbiberkeley.org)

On Purim night, please bring a non perishable food item for our Alameda County food bin.

Children's Purim Programming 7:30-8:45 PM @ Gan Shalom

Parents can drop off preschool through second graders for a special kid's Megillah presentation and Purim Parade, during the Megillah reading at CBI. The upstairs Treehouse will be designated a quiet/nursing room for parents to be with babies or tots. Children are welcome to join the main reading in the sanctuary, or be dropped off at Gan. Children at Gan will be walked over for the break fast following Megillah reading.

PURIM

Wednesday night & Thursday, March 23rd – 24th

Early Shacharit with Megillah Reading : R. Ferris 6:30 am
Late Shacharit 8:00 am
Megillah reading: Na’aman Kam 8:30 am
Women’s only Megillah Reading 12:00 pm
Gabbait: Andrea Brott

Readers:

- 1. Deena Aranoff
2. Andrea Brott
3. Hannah Lyon
4. Gavi Klein
5. Arielle Tonkin
6. SaraLeya Schley
7. Frayda Gonshor-Cohen
8. Pam Frydman
9. SaraLeya Schley
10. Rebecca Landes

Miranda Wedding (everyone invited) 2:30 pm

Festive Purim Meal @ CBI w/Shamati 4:00 pm
Mincha and Ma’ariv 7:00 pm

SHUSHAN PURIM

Friday, March 25th

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SHUSHAN PURIM

Friday, March 25th

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Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat @ CBI 7:00 pm
Candle Lighting 7:08pm

Saturday, March 26

Morning Service 9:15 am
Torah Reader: Na’aman Kam
Haftorah Reader: Eric Seder
Youth Programming 9:15 am
Formal Group Time: 10:45 am
Mincha 6:50 pm
Seudah Shlishit 7:10 pm
Ma’ariv, Havdalah & Shabbat ends after 8:06 pm

Beth Israel Classes

MONDAY

Book of Jeremiah with Maharat Victoria Sutton: Jeremiah's prophetic career spanned over thirty years and succession of several kings, through the Babylonian's conquest of Israel and ultimate destruction of the First Temple. The prophet risks his life to bring truth to Jerusalem and provide guidance to leaders and the nation. At times despondent, the book beautifully depicts the inner life of Jeremiah and his mission. Together, we will study the text and themes of the Book of Jeremiah.
Maharat Victoria Sutton — Mondays @ 12:00 pm

TUESDAY

The Numbers Breakdown: The forty-year wilderness journey was a time of complaint and crisis, national formation and leadership challenges. We will discuss complaint, conflict, rebellion and mutiny, highlighting the

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.

leadership challenges Israel faced in the desert. In addition, we will compare and contrast two episodes from the beginning and the end of Israel's time in the wilderness and attempt to identify the ways in which the nation of Israel was transformed by this forty-year journey. Finally, we will look at the close of Deuteronomy, the death of Moses and the appointment of Joshua as the new leader of Israel, with a unique focus on succession and the transfer of leadership from one generation to another.

R. Yonatan Cohen -- Tuesdays @ 8:00 pm, additional classes March 29, April 5

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.

Mickey Davis — Wednesdays @ 4:15 - 5:45 pm

Open Sources: Beit Midrash

Co-sponsored by Congregation Beth Israel and Kevah

An Open Beit Midrash for learning on all levels. You can come with a *hevruta* (learning partner) or we can help find the *hevruta* and area of learning that best fits. Start by filling out the form on our website. On site assistance with learning available.

An optional class will be given each week on the parasha by Maharat Victoria Sutton, which includes guided *hevruta* learning of sources for the class followed by group discussion. **Class resumes on March 30.**

Maharat Victoria Sutton — Wednesdays, 7:30—9:00 pm

Jewish philosophers: Rabbi Eliezer Berkovits: The class is currently reading and discussing selections from "Essential Essays on Judaism" presenting Berkovits' most significant essays, exploring vital issues within Judaism and Jewish society, including: Jewish morality and law, Jewish nationhood, and Jewish theology. No background necessary.

Muni Schweig — Wednesdays @ 8:00 pm @ the Schweig home

FRIDAY

Talmudic Wisdom: Join us for a weekly class that explores key *sugyot* (talmudic units) that discuss major Jewish questions of practice and thought. **Please note class is not meeting March 25.**

R. Yonatan Cohen - Fridays, 9:00 am

EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

In Beth Israel

Shifra Puah, Oelberger/Astmann Family: Mazal tov to parents Beth Oelberger Astmann & Jonathan Astmann and big brother Anshel on the birth of a baby boy, Sigmund Meyer (Simcha Me'ir). A great way to support the family at this time is by bringing them a meal. A meal train has been set up, to sign up please click here:

<https://mealtrain.com/493582>. *Tizku l'mitzvot!*

With deep gratitude to the Holy One, we are pleased to welcome the Miranda Family into the covenant of Abraham and Sarah. As many of you know, the family traces its Jewish lineage back to the Inquisition as *Anusim*. In light of that history, it is particularly meaningful for the family to have rejoined Am Yisrael on the eve of the holiday of Purim. In the same spirit, we are overjoyed to invite the entire community to join Yosef Moshe (Saul) and Chaya Ester (Sara) for their Jewish wedding on Purim Day at CBI. The Kabbalat Panim and Bedecken will begin at 2:30 pm with Chuppah

commencing promptly at 3:00 pm. The Purim seudah will follow the ceremony. May the Holy One bless the Mirandas and their children and shine His countenance upon them. May the hidden presence of God continue to guide the destiny of our people.

Friday, March 25, 7pm-10pm @ CBI

FNL - Friday Night Learning

Light the Night with Song, Food and Prayer

All Teens invited to a joyful Kabbalat Shabbat followed by dinner and singing at CBI. Please contact Avia Cohen, cohen@ncsy.org to RSVP

Donate your car/boat/vehicle to Beth Israel. Full tax write off. Beth Israel. Contact David: 510-849-0961

In the Community

Berkeley Hadassah invites you to:

Annual Donor Brunch, Sunday, March 27, 2016 - 11:30 am with Guest Speaker Professor David Sedlak

Solving Urban Water Challenges: Beyond the California Drought with a glimpse into how California and Israel can learn from each other

Congregation Beth Israel, 1630 Bancroft Way, Berkeley

RSVP by March 21 berkeleyhadassah.org or call 510-517-8511.

Bade Museum Tour — Tuesday May 3, 10:00 am

Free

Join Us to Explore the Biblical Artifacts Collection with Director Aaron Brody At the Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. Box lunch included following tour

Rsvp marcusdesign@sbcglobal.net

Book event: Amy Gottlieb, author of *The Beautiful Possible*.

Join novelist and former CBI member Amy Gottlieb on Tuesday, March 29 at 7pm at Books, Inc. on Shattuck, as she reads from and discusses her debut novel, *The Beautiful Possible*, an epic work of literary fiction that is steeped in Jewish ideas. For more information: www.amy-gottlieb.com

Oakland Hebrew Day School is opening a new Transitional Kindergarten program for 2016-17!

Join us for our Transitional Kindergarten Info Night:

Thursday, March 31, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Oakland Hebrew Day School

Please contact Philippa Lichterman, Admissions Director, to RSVP to this event or to schedule a personal tour: plichterman@ohds.org

Tehiyah Day School: Community Events: The mission of Tehiyah Day School is to inspire curiosity, a strong sense of community, and a vibrant connection to Judaism. We would love to have you visit our school in El Cerrito, where we provide private bus service to families in Berkeley and Oakland. Please join us at Tehiyah Day School for the following free event open to the community.

For more information, Michelle Tirella-Ventura, Director of Admissions, mtventura@tehiyah.org

Thursday, March 31, 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM, Spiritual World Music and Student Art Exhibit: featuring creations by all grades. This celebration of world music performed by our talented Tehiyah students begins at 6:15 PM in the gym.

Sunday, May 15, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, Think Tehiyah, Learn, Build, Create. A Free Community Maker Event!

The Chevra Kadisha (burial society) of the East Bay is holding a new membership meeting and training on Sunday, April 3, at 10:00 a.m.

at the Colonial Chapel, 2626 High Street in Oakland. This is an opportunity to learn more about Chevra Kadisha practices and rituals. The Chevra Kadisha of the East Bay includes members of Congregation Beth Israel, Beth Jacob, Netivot Shalom and Berkeley Chabad. They primarily, but not exclusively, perform Taharat for those who are buried at the Home of Peace cemetery in Oakland when the person who died was not involved in a synagogue community. Like most of these communities, our CBI Family has its own Chevra Kadisha which performs Taharat when CBI members pass away. There is also a great deal of cooperation between these communities and most people who belong to CBI's Chevra Kadisha are also a part of the Chevra Kadisha of the East Bay.

On April 3, the meeting will include:

- A brief overview of this mitzvah by Rabbi Daniel Fox of Beth Jacob
- An opportunity for both men and women to walk through the tahara procedure, separately, using the preparation room. An experienced team leader from both the women's and men's Chevrans will be present.
- Question and answer session

The meeting is open to both existing and prospective members of the Chevra Kadisha of the East Bay. Please please contact Neska

(neskama@hotmail.com) to RSVP, or for more information on joining the Chevra Kadisha of the East Bay.

Those interested in joining the Congregation Beth Israel Chevra Kadisha, are warmly encouraged to attend this training and let Juliet Stamperdahl (Juliet125@gmail.com) know that you are interested.

Tahoe Rental: am going to rent out my units at Tahoe Sands again this summer. The one bedroom cabin is available July 29 to August 5. There should be very good weather at this time. Please let me know if you are interested. June Safran 510-526-7173

Going to Israel? Our Jerusalem apartment is available for short term vacation rentals (minimum stay is one week). The two bedroom, two bath apartment is one block off of Emek Refaim in the leafy German Colony section of Jerusalem. This highly desirable neighborhood is full of great restaurants, cafés, shopping and even has a beautiful public swimming pool. You can walk to the Western Wall and the Old City from the apartment in approximately 35 minutes. The apartment is the entire 2nd floor of a building containing only two other apartments, and is accessible only by stairs. It has a lovely and large merpeset (balcony). It sleeps 4-6 people comfortably. It has one off-street parking space. Photos available upon request. Please contact hopeworks@pacbell.net.

A Guide for Purim

"There is one nation scattered and separated among the nations whose customs and actions are different, and they are not worthy of your tolerance."

—Megilat Esther 3:8

Haman tries to convince **Achashverosh**, the King of Persia, that the Jewish nation—this different nation—should not be tolerated. He wins over the heart of the king, and his plan nearly succeeds. Our sages teach us that within each of us there resides an aspect of Haman, of *evil*, which whispers to us, saying that the one who is different should not be tolerated. The *mitzvot* of Purim are aimed at deconstructing these differences and silencing that whisper. Both men and women are obligated to observe four unique *mitzvot* on Purim.

Megilah

Hearing the reading of the Megilah enables us to re-live the story and to recount and recall its messages. One is obligated to hear the Megilah twice; once at night and once during the day. One must hear every word of the Megilah read from a "kosher" parchment. ***We will read the Megilah on Purim night, Wednesday, March 23 after Maariv at 7:30 p.m. and on Purim day, Thursday morning, March 24; early Shacharit starts at 6:30 a.m. with Megillah Reading at 7:00 a.m., late Shacharit starts at 8:00 a.m. and we will read the Megilah at 8:30 a.m.; there will be a women's-only Megilah reading at 12:00 p.m.***

Matanot L'Evyonim

Gifts to the poor remind us that *our* possessions are in truth not fully ours. One has a responsibility to find two poor people and provide each, at the minimum, enough money for a meal. In addition to this *halakha*, on Purim one should give to anyone who asks for a donation. The total giving should ideally be equivalent to or surpass the amount that one spends on his/her own Purim Meal. *Rabbi Cohen will be collecting money, which will be distributed on Purim day to both needy here in the East Bay as well as to poor in*

Jerusalem.

Mishloach Manot

Gifts of food to one another allow us to reach out to share our celebration of the day and to increase love and friendship with others in the community. There is a custom to send *Mishloach Manot* to those who one has had particularly strained relations with over the past year. One is obligated to send two kinds of ready-to-eat foods to a fellow Jew to enhance their Purim meal. We do not send *Mishloach Manot* to those who are in mourning.

Seudat Purim

This is the celebratory Purim meal. From a minimalist perspective, one is obligated to have a meal with bread; however ideally the meal should be a joyous festive meal with meat (for those who eat it) and wine (for those who drink it responsibly) in an effort to help us blur distinctions that we often hold fast to. A *Seudat Purim* will be held at CBI on **Thursday, March 24 at 4 p.m.** with the participation of the band Shamati, followed by Mincha and Maariv services at 7:00 p.m.

With the exception of Megilah, which is also read at night, all of the mitzvot should be performed during the day of Purim.

Note: In the *birchat ha-mazon* as well as in the *shmoneh esrei*, one should include the *Al Hanisimi* insertion for Purim. If forgotten, one does not repeat the prayer.

In addition, the Fast of Esther begins **Wednesday morning, March 23 at 5:46 a.m. and ends at 7:52 p.m.** A Fast day Mincha will be held at CBI at 6:00 p.m. that evening. The only restriction of the fast is eating and drinking. One may bathe, shave and enjoy live entertainment as usual. However, as with all fasts, it should be used as an opportunity for introspection and personal growth. Our sages have taught that only one who experiences the fast of Esther can truly celebrate on Purim.