

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

ChaiLights

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From Maharat Victoria Sutton

As long as I can remember, the taste of Pesach was a savory morsel of lamb shank and the crunch of date charoset and romaine.

The sounds of Pesach were the tunes my grandfathers used for the Haggadah, chanting the entire text together as a family. We would spend one seder at each grandparent, and being from different Syrian cities - one from Aleppo and the other from Damascus, their tunes were almost identical but had distinct differences.

These traditions are formative. And traditions are not just limited to different flavors, or different tunes (which in this fluid, post-post modern society, are more and more the subject of fusion). It's easy to make an Iraqi or Syrian charoset to add to your seder, or to dream about *kitniyot* revolutionizing your Pesach menu, but to really explore how different Jewish traditions approach the Pesach seder or other rituals, or to include a commentary or thinker outside your usual circle, takes more thought, research and nuance.

This year at CBI, we have been exploring the intellectual history, values and spiritual influences that have shaped different communities in how they engage with their liturgy, *chagim* (holidays) and with their Judaism. It is an exciting, and thought-provoking, way to open up and further this communal conversation.

I would like to pick up on one of those talks, as it relates to the upcoming holiday of Pesach and the intersection of practice of Jews of different backgrounds. *Shir HaShirim* (Song of Songs), which is customarily recited on Shabbat Chol HaMoed (intermediate days) Pesach in Ashkenazi communities, is recited weekly to welcome Shabbat in many Sefardic communities. We would recite the first perek (chapter) by heart, using the *ta'amim* (liturgical notes) in school at Friday afternoon *mincha* before early dismissal. Each Friday night, I would go to shul with my father, and men would take turns round-robin, each reciting a perek from their seat in the sing-songy melody.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The contrast of the romantic poetry and the sanctity of the synagogue setting was a continuous delight. The men (who made up the majority of attendees on Friday nights) would sing these erotic imageries with the same *kavanah* (intention) and attention to detail as they did the weekly Torah reading.

This custom is a heritage of the kabbalistic influence of Tzfat (as R. Helfgot spoke about during his visit). The kabbalists, however, were building on earlier writings on *Shir HaShirim* and its place in the Biblical canon.

Four hundred years before the developments of kabbalists in Tzfat, Rambam, Sefardic uber-rationalist, writes in his *Hilkhot Teshuva* (10:3):

What is the proper [degree] of love? That a person should love God with a very great and exceeding love until his soul is bound up in the love of God. Thus, he will always be obsessed with this love as if he is lovesick.

[A lovesick person's] thoughts are never diverted from the love of that woman. He is always obsessed with her; when he sits down, when he gets up, when he eats and drinks. With an even greater [love], the love for God should be [implanted] in the hearts of those who love God and are obsessed with God at all times as we are commanded [Deuteronomy 6:5: "Love God..."] with all your heart and with all soul."

This concept was implied by Solomon [Song of Songs 2:5] when he stated, as a metaphor: "I am lovesick." [Indeed,] the totality of the Song of Songs is a parable describing [this love].

This beautiful custom of reciting *Shir HaShirim* each Shabbat is much more than adornment for Shabbat. For many, it is also indicative of a theological worldview, an *Ahavat Hashem* (Love of God) that emanates from an *emunah peshuta* (simple faith). As the Rambam describes one who is lovesick, "their thoughts are never diverted" from the object of that love. These same men who recited *Shir HaShirim* each week often spoke about God during the week, in daily life, focusing on God's *hashgacha* (providence). Even those who were not as strict in their observance of mitzvot often felt God in their daily lives in an intimate way. Expressing the intimacy of one's relationship with God was therefore not limited to once a week, or once a year.

As we prepare as a community for Pesach, symbolizing the honeymoon between G-d and the Jewish People, may the reading of *Shir HaShirim* remind us to "never divert our thoughts from the love" of *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* (the Holy One of Blessing).

Chag kasher v'sameach,

Maharat Victoria Sutton

Mishmash at CBI



From the President

Tu B'Shevat in Berkeley always seems to coincide with the flowering plum trees and magnolias throughout the neighborhood, giving us an incredible show of billowing pink blossoms.

Tu B'Shevat in Berkeley always seems to coincide with the flowering plum trees and magnolias throughout the neighborhood, giving us an incredible show of billowing pink blossoms. You need look no further than diagonally across the street from the shul for an inspiring view of an amazing magnolia tree in full bloom. With this annual rite of passage in Berkeley, one can feel the seasons aligning with our holiday celebrations. It's no surprise that Purim has come and gone at CBI and, of course, that leads to thoughts that Pesach can't be far behind.

But before we look further ahead, I want to look back and thank everyone who participated in our annual January Phone-a-thon. Our successful Phone-a-thon effort, co-chaired by Eliezah Blumenthal Hoffman and Carol Cunradi, actually surpassed our target goal and raised over \$29,000 in pledges! This show of support by our volunteer callers, organizers, and those who responded to our appeal is vital to the ongoing operation of CBI through the last half of our fiscal year. If you have made a pledge, please take a moment and make a payment to the office to fulfill it -- and thanks to all of you for answering our calls so generously.

Planning is well underway for our June 3rd Gala, this year to be held at Covenant Winery. Jodie and Jeff Morgan have generously opened their winery for this event, and Jodie is also leading the way with her inspired vision for a truly outstanding celebration. For those who have had the opportunity to be a guest of the winery, you know how special any event with Jodie and Jeff is.

Be on the lookout for details about a raffle with a first prize of an "instant kosher wine cellar." The lucky winner will go home with an impressive collection of some of the best kosher wines in our area. The wine cellar prize will include wines from Covenant Winery, Hajdu Wines; Shirah Wines; Four Gates; Herzog; Michael Kay's own collection and newcomer wine makers, CBI members Eli Silins & Molly Nadav. This collection of wines is valued at \$3000, and could be yours with the winning \$100 raffle ticket. There will also be the chance to win the second prize: dinner at Covenant Winery with Rabbi Cohen, Maharat Sutton, and five of your own guests.

And lastly, the evening will also feature the wonderful storytelling of Michael Kay. Michael last appeared at Covenant Winery with Stories from the Shtetl in November. It was a pleasure to hear him then, and I look forward to hearing his next installment. I hope you will all be able

to join in for what is sure to be an incredible event.

So what about Purim? Purim at Beth Israel was a very spirited holiday, with our communal Megillah readings, a women's reading and our annual Purim Seudah on Purim day. *Yasher koach* to those of you who reclaimed the *mitzvah* of giving of *mishloach manot* throughout the community. And thanks to all who gave generously to *matanot l'evyonim* -- gifts to the poor -- to support those in need locally as well as in Israel.

It's time to think about Pesach-we really can't wait much longer! I know from my on-the-scenes reporter at Gan Shalom (my 4 year old granddaughter!) that our youngest community members are learning songs, studying the story in great depth and asking a lot of questions about all of the details of Pesach and the seder. I think we can learn a fair amount from our young children about how to bring joy, curiosity and engagement to our seder tables.

Don't forget that you can support the shul, while you prepare for Pesach by using SCRIP while you shop. Our devoted SCRIP team, Naomi Stamper ((510) 525-8259 and Ruth Wittman (510) 525-9530 will do their best to provide Berkeley Bowl and Oakland Kosher Foods scrip to you for all of your holiday shopping. Give them a call, and give CBI a donation while you shop.

Wishing all of you *chag pesach kasher v'sameach!*

Leslie Valas, President



A Warm and Welcoming Environment: Directing Gan Shalom Preschool!

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18th of January...it was my birthday, it was also the day I received an offer from Gan Shalom Preschool to start working as Director. After a month of co-directing the school with Laura - the outgoing director, I have started directing the school on my own on March 1st! Receiving guidance from Laura in this transition has been extremely important. Laura has been caring, detailed and supportive.

When I arrived in the Bay area, I interviewed for a number of jobs as a school Director, but when I walked into Gan Shalom, I was taken by the beauty of its space, the atmosphere, and the team. I left each successive interview at Gan more excited!

These past two weeks have been filled with a lot of learning about the school. I attended the Tu B'shevat seder and sat during circle time when teachers tell Torah stories. I am also getting to know the wonderful families that attend our school and the children, greeting them when they arrive or leave school and attending community events such as Tot Shabbat! I am honored to observe the rich Jewish curriculum offered at Gan Shalom and how the progressive pedagogies in the school make that possible.

We also attended, as a staff, the one-day Jewish Federation Early Childhood Conference. One of the insights I took from the conference can be summed as, "the importance of sharing a message of affirmation with the school staff." This insight came from



Rabbi Adina Allen during her workshop on "Art for the Educator's Soul." Rabbi Adina is the spiritual leader, Co-Founder and Creative Director of The Jewish Studio Project, and mother of a child at Gan Shalom.

We talked about the challenges school teachers face and the importance of affirmations staff, parents, and community members can say to teachers to encourage, support, and recognize their work. Rabbi Allen asked us to make some "artist trading cards" - small cards we could exchange with each other with kind words that teachers might like to hear.

A number of teachers from Gan Shalom took the workshop, we all made cards, and decided to take them back to Gan Shalom to display in the school. They will remind us of the importance of the work that we do and the strength of our team!

On the next page, I include some of the cards we made!

Beatrice Balfour, Gan Shalom director



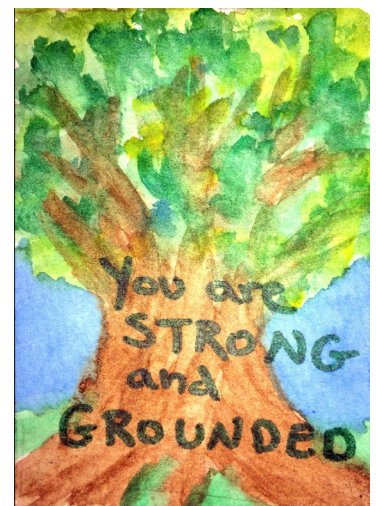
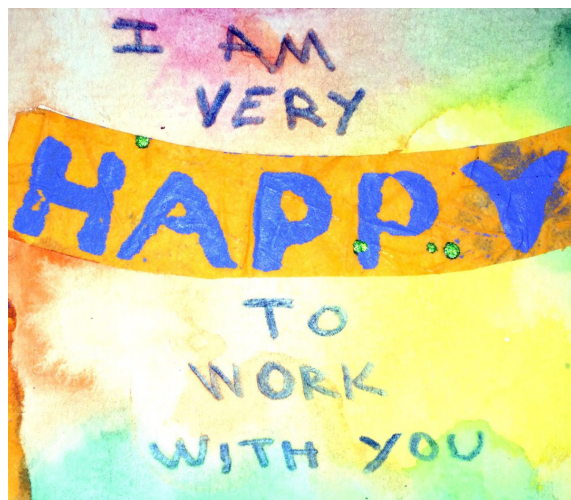
THANK YOU TO LAURA LIPMAN BY Yael Krieger

Thank you Laura Lipman for your more than ten years of leadership for Gan Shalom! Three years ago, a few months before our daughter Elisheva's first day at Gan we received an email from Laura asking to schedule a home visit.

Laura wrote, "It's a time for me to get to know Elisheva a little and to give her a familiar face when she starts school. We are about building relationships--it is about starting a positive relationship that she will continue at school with all her teachers and many soon-to-be friends!" These words defined Laura's orientation towards all the children and parents at Gan Shalom. Laura built relationships. She saw each and every child for who they were and she took pleasure in each

of them. Her love, care, and dedication to the Gan Shalom Community created a space where our children could grow, learn, and practice those same values. While her daily presence will be missed, her qualities are a cornerstone of everything that Gan is and will continue to be. We are especially thankful that in this time of transition, she went above and beyond, extending her stay, in order to ensure that she could leave the Gan in secure and loving hands. We thank her so

deeply for everything she has given to our Gan Shalom community.



"They (these cards) will remind us of the importance of the work that we do and the strength of our team."



Parent/NCSY'er Learning - back for our third time!
February 24th from 7:15pm to 8:15pm at Beth Jacob in Oakland
Open for grades 4-12 (with separate learning tracks for different ages)
Come for an hour of fun, food, learning and raffles!

MARCH 16- SHABBATON
At CBI for all 6-8 graders!

March 25 • Social Event for High Schoolers • Save the date!

Save the Date for Regionals • May 25-28

For information: naimana@ncsy.org



MIDDLE SCHOOL NCSYERS TAKE 6 FLAGS



MIDDLE SCHOOL NCSYERS TAKE 6 FLAGS

New Member Tali Singer



Tali Singer is a graduate of Brandeis University, where she got her master's degree in computational linguistics. "I had done some work related to speech recognition," she says humbly.

Tali has been on the podcasts team at Apple since the startup she was working for got acquired last fall. "I am happy to recommend podcasts to anyone who might be interested," she says with a genuine smile.

Tali moved to Berkeley last January and started coming to CBI. "I visited different shuls in Bay Area and found the CBI community, and Berkeley in general, more friendly with a down-to-earth vibe. So I chose to live in Berkeley.

"At CBI, I am enjoying how friendly it is and davening is really great. Also I like that there is a wide range of ages and so many opportunities to get to know people in the young professional group."

Tali's parents live in Portland, Oregon, where she moved when she was twelve years old. "After having been on the East Coast for school, it is nice to be back on the West Coast and closer to them." Her younger sister is a senior at Brandeis University.

I asked Tali about her other interests and activities. She says, "I just signed up for softball league. I am excited to meet people there and expand my horizons. Also, it's been my goal for a long time to be able to harmonize when I sing, and I am thinking of taking some classes on harmonizing."

New Members Dennis & Marilyn Levi



Dennis and Marilyn Levi are originally from South Africa, lived in Houston, Texas, for 31 years, and moved to Berkeley in 2001.

"We were members of another synagogue, when my younger brother passed away in November, and we were looking for a minyan. We looked online and found CBI. The Rabbi was so supportive and wonderful. Not only the Rabbi, but also the people in the community were warm and supportive. When I needed comfort, the community was there, and the Rabbi was there. Now we go to Kabbalat Shabbat services every Friday night since we have joined CBI," Dennis explains.

Marilyn adds, "We find it very comforting to start our Friday night with coming to CBI, and that is something we were missing after we moved here from Texas."

Dennis is a professor at the School of Optometry, and Marilyn works at a private company in Berkeley. They have a daughter.

Listening to classical music, mostly chamber music, is their hobby, which takes them to Aspen Music Festival every summer.

New Member Ron Elkayam



Ron Elkayam, a resident of Kensington, joined CBI in 2017 when he became more observant. When I asked what made him become more observant he answered, "I grew up going to a conservative shul in Baltimore, visiting family in Israel, and had a strong Jewish upbringing, especially from my Moroccan Jewish father. I had been involved in the Jewish community off and on but also spent a lot of time searching and got very involved in meditation."

"In the last few years, I started being inspired by rabbis who not only talked about spirituality, but also about how to bring it to everyday life. They talked about ethics. It was very practical, real, and joyful. I just felt like I was back home where I belong."

"And how do you like CBI?" I asked. "I love CBI. I am in the minyan every day. I feel a sense of community. It's also nice to connect with CBI members from Israel. My mother is from Tel Aviv and my father is from Haifa and I grew up visiting my family there during the summers," he explained. "I had my bar mitzvah at my grandfather's Moroccan shul in Haifa, where I chanted Torah in the Moroccan style. I worked in a religious kibbutz one semester during college where I helped with raising poultry and fixing irrigation. Another time, I went to Israel to teach English to Israeli kids in a summer camp in Kiryat Gat."

Some CBI members might recognize Ron from his time in the local Jewish band Za'atar, which played music of the Jews of Arab and Muslim lands. "I used to play percussion and sing in the band. It was a good way for me to connect with my Moroccan roots and share this tradition with the community."

Ron lived in Berkeley for almost ten years and after getting his training in acupuncture and Chinese medicine in Oakland, he moved to Taiwan and Mainland China for five years. There, he learned Mandarin and then interned in hospitals. "Of course, I also met the Chabad rabbis in Shanghai and Beijing," he added. He then spent a few years on the East Coast, so he could be closer to his family, especially his grandmother, a Holocaust survivor from Ukraine.

Ron is now practicing acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine at his own clinic in El Cerrito. "I missed Northern California and my friends here, so I moved back," he said. "I also practice Tai Chi, and now I spend a lot of time studying Torah." Ron is specifically interested in halacha, and studies Mishnah, Tanya, and Chassidut.

New Members Noa Albaum & Ben Kramarz



Noa Albaum and Ben Kramarz, a young couple who met in Brooklyn, moved to the Bay Area this past September. They recently joined Congregation Beth Israel "because it's the place to be," as Ben put it.

Noa is a New York City native who plays cello and works as the program director at the Jewish Community Library in San Francisco.

"I like being part of this team [that is] producing accessible free programming that includes very interesting and substantial programs. It is fun to be part of the selection process. This spring we will have Rabbi Yonatan Cohen, Aviva Zornberg, and Gitl Schaechter-Viswanath as presenters, to name a few."

Ben Kramarz is a Berkeley graduate. He is a music educator who works mostly with children.

New Members

Noah & Melissa Nathan



How Noah and Melissa Nathan decided to move to Berkeley is an interesting story. They devised a game that required they each look for a job—Melissa in England, where they'd been living, and Noah in America. The location of the first job landed would determine where they would be living for the next few years. Noah won the game, finding a job at Fiverr (an Israeli tech company) in San Francisco. That is how "the adventure of experiencing life in California" began for Noah and Melissa.

This young and cheerful couple chose the CBI community on a friend's recommendation. "The community extends beyond Shabbat and beyond the four walls of the sanctuary. We love it. We don't take it for granted," Noah says.

Melissa finds simultaneously exploring a new country and a new city a lot of fun. "We do a lot of hiking, and we love that we have our own local kosher winery right around the corner."

Noah used to make wine. Now he has started to make his own kosher cheese since he hasn't found a wide selection of kosher cheese around here. Melissa, who was a teacher in London is now changing careers. She likes baking, painting pottery, and knitting. It was a delight to meet the lively and lovely couple briefly at their Berkeley apartment for this interview.

Thank you to Katrin Arefy for collecting the wonderful stories of our new members.

CBI Camp Scholarship Fund

We are pleased to remind you that an anonymous donor made a generous gift to our community to offer scholarships for CBI children who wish to attend Jewish sleep-away summer camps. Scholarships will be made available to every CBI family that applies with a special focus on first time camp participants. Please contact R. Cohen for scholarship information or if your family wishes to learn more about options for Jewish Summer Camps.

Our CBI Family has always focused on passing along a rich sense of Jewish connection, commitment, and level of engagement to the next generation. We do so every day through our support of our beloved Gan Shalom, our Jewish Day Schools and High School, afternoon programs, NCSY, and Midrasha, along with our robust Shabbat youth programming at the shul. Jewish summer camps offer fully immersive educational experiences. According to a 2010 study by the Foundation for Jewish Camp, *Camp Works: The Long Term Impact of Jewish Overnight Camp*, there is compelling evidence that overnight Jewish camp is a proven means of building Jewish identity, community, and leadership. In an article titled *The Secret Ingredient of Summer Camp Magic*, Benjamin Kramarz argues that a Jewish camp "effectively harnesses what anthropologists call 'liminality,' the state of being in transition, the middle stage between one place and the next. [...] Take transitional people in transitional time, put them in a transitional place, add a generous portion of positive communal intention and you have a recipe for magic."

We have contacted several Jewish immersive summer camps and we were assured that additional scholarships are readily available for children in our community. Feel free to contact R. Cohen with any questions as we are eager to help more children in our community benefit from the gift of Jewish summer camps. Our deep gratitude to our anonymous donor for this meaningful and impactful gift. May our community's children benefit from it for many years to come.

The Joy of Matzah: No, Really!

By Jane Turbiner

Close your eyes. Breathe in deeply through your nose and exhale slowly through your mouth. Repeat. Open your eyes. You are now relaxed and prepared to think creatively about the joys of matzah. For me, cooking and baking for Pesach is a fun adventure. Instead of focusing on what we don't eat, I get excited about all the things my family will enjoy only during these eight days a year. Here are a few Pesachdig recipes using matzah in its many fabulous forms. No separating eggs, no endless whipping egg whites, no tears.

Mom's Light and Fluffy Matzah Balls

And I mean that seriously. Even if you prefer dense sinkers, you'll appreciate these. The recipe is fleishig, can be made parve by switching out the schmaltz and soup, but the result is not quite as tasty. This recipe makes 12-18 matzah balls, depending on size, and can easily be doubled. Using a very large pot – so as to not crowd the matzah balls – and letting the steam do its job undisturbed will guarantee a light as air floater. (*Fleishig or parve*)

- 4 eggs
- ¼ C Chicken soup
- ¼ C chicken schmaltz
- 1t salt
- 1C matzah meal
- ½ t ground nutmeg

In a medium bowl, beat the four eggs until pale yellow. Add the chicken schmaltz (preferably from your soup) and blend well. Add the matzah meal with the salt and nutmeg and stir until well combined. Add the soup and mix vigorously until you have a wet batter. Refrigerate at least ½ hour; batter will stiffen and swell slightly.

Meanwhile, fill a 12 quart pot (or bigger) with about 6 inches of water, add 1-2 ladles of chicken soup, and bring to a rolling boil. Have a tablespoon and small bowl of cold water near the stove. Working with wet hands, spoon a large walnut-sized lump of batter into your hands and quickly roll into a smooth ball. Drop into the boiling water. Do the same until you have used all of the batter. Cover the pot tightly and return to a boil, then lower the heat until the water simmers vigorously, but doesn't boil. Check that all of the matzah balls have popped to the surface; if not, gently shake the pot to release them. Now close the pot tightly and do not disturb for 35 minutes. From time to time, check that the pot remains at a simmer. After 35 minutes, remove one of the matzah balls with a slotted spoon. It should be creamy white in color, smooth in texture, and when you cut it in half, evenly cooked throughout. If it is not, recover the pot and cook for another 5 minutes. Remove matzah balls to your pot of soup and enjoy!

Teiglach at Pesach? You Betcha!

If you love that mountain of sweetness and crunch at Rosh Hashanah, here is a recipe to enjoy at Pesach. (*Parve*)

- 2C honey
- 3C matzah farfel
- 1C granulated sugar
- ½ t ground ginger
- 1C coarsely chopped nuts
- ¼ t ground cinnamon

Cover a baking sheet (with sides) with greased aluminum foil and set aside.

In a medium saucepan, stir together the honey and sugar. Bring to a bubbly boil over low heat and add the remainder of the ingredients. Continue to cook over low heat until the mixture becomes a nice amber color, being careful not to burn it.

Pour into the prepared baking sheet and allow to cool. As it sets up, you can score into squares, or drop by heaping teaspoons into mini muffin papers for a different presentation. Refrigerate until cold and serve.



Bring on the Bête Noire (Black Beast)!

If you can make a flourless chocolate torte the other 357 days of the year, you can certainly make one on Pesach. Fudgy and fabulous, and meant for a crowd. A little goes a long way. (*Parve or dairy*)

Chocolate Orange Torte with Raspberry Coulis (12 – 20 servings)

Torte

¾ C Pesachdig margarine or butter
12 oz. good quality semi-sweet chocolate
1C fresh orange juice
6 eggs, well beaten
¾ C granulated sugar

Coulis

10 oz. frozen raspberries
2T granulated sugar

Line a 9" spring form pan with a parchment paper circle, place on a baking sheet, and set aside. Preheat oven to 350°.

In a heavy medium saucepan, or a double boiler, heat and whisk the margarine, sugar, and orange juice together until the sugar melts. Remove from the heat, add all the chocolate, and stir until the chocolate melts and the mixture is smooth. Cool well. Whisk in the eggs until well incorporated. Pour the mixture into the spring form and place on the center rack in the oven. Bake for 35-45 minutes, until the top is a bit crusty looking and the torte seems set. Cool on a cookie rack and then refrigerate for several hours (or freeze until 1 hour before eating).

When ready to serve, invert the cake onto a plate or cake round and remove the parchment paper circle. To pretty up the cake before serving, dust with cocoa powder, add some thin curls of orange zest, or a few raspberries (or any combination of the above).

Make the coulis. In a food processor or blender, process the frozen raspberries with the sugar until smooth and the texture of melting ice cream. Store in the freezer until a few hours before serving.

Cut thin slices and pass the coulis. Enjoy!

Turkish Delight!

Here is another texture altogether...Tish Pishti! This Turkish nut cake, soaked in sweet syrup, is good all year round. Replace the flour with matzah cake meal, and voila! Here's how. (*Parve*)

Cake

¼ C vegetable oil
¼ t salt
¾ C granulated sugar
½ t ground cinnamon
¼ C brown sugar
½ C matzah cake meal
3 eggs
½ C finely chopped almonds or hazelnuts
3T fresh orange juice
1C finely chopped walnuts
1t finely minced orange zest

Soaking Syrup

½ C granulated sugar
1T lemon juice
1/3 C fresh orange juice
¼ t ground cinnamon
¼ C water

Generously grease an 8" round or square cake pan and set aside. Preheat oven to 350°.

With a heavy wire whisk or electric hand mixer, beat together the oil, sugars, and eggs until thick and pale yellow. Add the remaining cake ingredients and stir until very well incorporated. Turn the batter into the prepared pan and bake on the center oven rack until light brown and set, about 35-40 minutes. Cool for at least half an hour.

In a heavy medium saucepan, stir together all of the syrup ingredients over low heat and continue to simmer for 5-10 minutes until the mixture is syrupy. Chill well.

When the cake is cold, pop 10-15 holes across the top of the cake with a toothpick. Slowly pour the syrup over the top of the cake, and then refrigerate for several hours while the cake absorbs the syrup. Cut the cold cake into small squares and serve. These look great in mini muffin papers.

A Guide for Pesach

By Rabbi Yonatan Cohen

1. THE PROHIBITION OF CHAMETZ

The Torah outlines three types of foods that are prohibited during Pesach: *Chametz* (leavened bread), *Seor* (leavening agent, e.g. yeast), and *Machmetzet* (a mixture of other foods with *chametz*).

The Prohibition of *Chametz* during Pesach is Threefold:

1. One is forbidden to eat *chametz* (including any amount of *chametz* mixed into other foods).
2. One is forbidden to derive any benefit from *chametz* (sell it, give it to someone, feed it to one's animal, make ink from it, etc.).
3. One is forbidden to own any *chametz* or have any visible *chametz* on one's property.

The only exception to this rule is *chametz* that is no longer in a state fit to be eaten by a dog (*chametz sh'nifsal me'achilat kelev*).

The practical application of this exception is found in household products that contain grain, starches or grain alcohol. According to Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, toothpaste — even if unsupervised — can be used because it is *nifsal me'achilat kelev*. Similarly, soap may be used even if it contains *chametz*. Medicine in tablet form, which is swallowed whole, also is not a problem. However, liquid medicine such as cough syrup is problematic because it may contain grain alcohol, which is pure *chametz*. Throat lozenges also are a problem. In case of need, please feel free to consult with me personally.

2. KITNIOT

The consumption of rice, peas, beans, corn, and legumes (*kitniot*) was prohibited by rabbis in medieval Europe. The origins of this practice are not clear, though two common theories are that these items are often made into products resembling *chametz* (e.g. cornbread), or that these items were normally stored in the same sacks as the five grains and people worried that they might become contaminated with *chametz*. It is also possible that crop rotation would result in the forbidden *chametz* grains growing in the same fields, and being mixed in with the *kitniot*.

Jews of European origin have maintained this tradition. In the Talmud, we are instructed *Minhag Avoteinu B'yadeinu*, to heed the customs of our ancestors. As these foods are not biblical *chametz*, one may benefit from and possess *kitniot* during Pesach. Yemenite and some Sephardic Jews do not hold by this custom. If you have any questions, please contact R. Cohen or Maharat Sutton.

3. STRINGENCIES OF CHAMETZ VIS-A-VIS OTHER PROHIBITED FOODS

The eating of *chametz* during Pesach is punishable by *karet*, eternal excommunication — it is a more severe transgression than other prohibited foods.

One may derive benefit from many other prohibited foods — sell them, feed them to the dog, etc. — but not *chametz*. Furthermore, *chametz* that is in the possession of a Jew during Pesach is forever prohibited to any Jew and must be destroyed. (Giving it away to a non-Jew is considered a benefit, as it gains good will.) *Chametz* that is found in one's possession during *Chol Hamoed* (intermediate days of Pesach) must be destroyed immediately. If it is found during *Yom Tov* or *Shabbat*, it must be covered up, and destroyed immediately after the end of *Yom Tov* or *Shabbat*.

Finally, most other prohibited foods are, under certain circum-

stances, "cancelled out" if there is a preponderance of permitted food that "overwhelms" the prohibited food (as, for example, one part in sixty parts in many cases). *Chametz* that gets mixed with permitted foods during Pesach is never "cancelled out" in such a manner, and any bit of *chametz* makes the entire pot of food prohibited.

It is therefore advisable to buy foods like milk, pure fruit juices and eggs before Pesach when any added vitamins can be "canceled out" (*me'vatal*) in sixty parts of liquid.

4. THE SALE OF CHAMETZ

Sale of *chametz* to a non-Jew is a legally effective way to rid oneself of *chametz*. Such a transfer of *chametz*, through a legal and binding sale with a properly executed contract, gives the non-Jew full title to all foods listed. This transfer may be carried out through appointing an agent, with power of attorney, to sell the *chametz* through *kinyan*, a formal transfer act and contract.

For this sale to be binding, there are several necessary criteria: The seller must truly believe that he or she is in fact selling something and that he or she views these goods as no longer theirs. The lack of this mental state invalidates any bill of sale, including this one. There must be access for the buyer to the *chametz* during Pesach. Accordingly, if a person plans to be out of town during the holiday, then he or she must leave keys with a neighbor or with the agent performing the sale, with proper instruction. Please note, the significant act of *kinyan* should take place between each individual and the agent.

Those who wish to sell their *chametz* through CBI should enact a *kinyan* with R. Cohen.

He will be available for 10 minutes after his weekly classes (please consult our class schedule for times) as well as on:

Sunday March 11, 8:40 – 9:15 am @ CBI

Sunday, March 25, 8:40 – 9:15 am @ CBI

R. Cohen will also be available at other times by appointment.

Maharat Sutton will also be available to enact a *kinyan* at the annual Sisterhood Wine Sale.

Chametz that has been sold must be put in a completely sealed-off place, not readily accessible to the seller during Pesach. Any *chametz* held over Pesach under Jewish ownership may not ever be used, eaten, or sold after Pesach. Selling one's *chametz* before Pesach to a non-Jew avoids Jewish ownership during Pesach and therefore is not subject to this injunction.

5. STORE-BOUGHT FOODS

Even while we are careful all year long to consume only food with appropriate supervision, during the week of Pesach there is a need to be more vigilant.

Below is a partial list of food that REQUIRE SPECIAL PESACH SUPERVISION

Please note, this list only includes items one might otherwise assume did not require special Pesach supervision, but in fact do.

APPLESauce
 BABY FOOD
 BAKING POWDER and SODA
 BUTTER with coloring added
 CANDY and CHOCOLATE
 CHEESE – HARD
 CHEESE SPREADS
 COTTAGE CHEESE/RICOTTA
 CRANBERRY SAUCE
 CREAM CHEESE
 FISH – GEFILTE, HERRING,
 SMOKED SALMON, & ALL CANNED
 FRUITS – CANNED & FROZEN
 HONEY
 HORSERADISH (RED AND WHITE)
 ICE CREAM
 JAMS AND JELLIES
 JUICES – WITH ANY ADDITIVES,
 OR IF NOT BOUGHT BEFORE PESACH
 KETCHUP
 MARGARINE
 MAYONNAISE
 MILK – IF NOT BOUGHT BEFORE PESACH
 NON-DAIRY CREAMER
 NUT BUTTERS
 OILS & SHORTENINGS – EVEN PURE
 OLIVES
 PICKLED PRODUCTS
 SAUERKRAUT
 SOUR CREAM
 SPICES & SEASONINGS
 ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS
 SYRUPS
 TEAS—FLAVORED
 TOMATO PRODUCTS
 VEGETABLES – CANNED & FROZEN
 VINEGAR
 WINES & LIQUORS
 YOGURT

A full list of foods that DO NOT REQUIRE SPECIAL PESACH SUPERVISION appears at www.kosherquest.org. The list will be available at the CBI office a few weeks before the holiday.

In addition, the following items DO NOT REQUIRE SPECIAL PESACH SUPERVISION:

MEAT: Fresh packaged meat (non-processed) and chicken purchased at our local kosher supermarkets prior to Passover is Kosher for Passover even without specific KFP labeling.

MILK & LACTAID MILK: May be used on Passover if purchased before Passover. Lactaid Non Chewable Pills are permissible for use on Passover as well.

6. CLEANING OF HOMES/PROPERTIES

It is important to note that dirt is not considered *chametz* (although it is strongly advisable to maintain high standards of hygiene!). The obligation to remove *chametz* applies strictly to *chametz*, and not anything else. One must remove *chametz* from all owned properties, including offices, cars, boats, and so forth.

Please note, while cleaning, the ideal manner in which to dispose of chametz foodstuffs is to donate them to non-Jews in need such as food banks and homeless shelters.

7. METHODS OF KASHERING HOUSEWARES FOR PESACH

Once one has bought Kosher for Pesach food, one must prepare this food in a Kosher for Pesach manner. Jewish Law dictates that utensils and location used in food preparations affects their

tastes and halakhic status. These laws are complex and, in cases of even the slightest doubt, do not hesitate to contact R. Cohen or Maharat Sutton.

Here are some basic principles for Pesach:

Sinks: If stainless steel or metal, should be cleaned with cleaning substance, followed with boiling water poured over the entire surface. Porcelain sinks cannot be kashered in this way and one should use a sink insert.

Stovetop Burners: Should be cleaned with a cleaning substance and not used for 24 hours (one may kasher different burners at different times). Turn to the highest temperature setting for 20 minutes. The base of the stovetop should be covered with tinfoil.

Ovens: Self-cleaning ovens should be set to a full self-cleaning cycle. Others should be cleaned well with a strong cleaning substance, not used for 24 hours, then turned to the highest temperature for a longer than usual cooking period.

Microwaves: To kasher a microwave oven, clean thoroughly until absolutely no debris is left. Special attention must be given to the internal vent of the microwave. After you are satisfied that there is no debris, the following steps need to be taken. After 24 hours of non-use, place a mug of water inside and turn microwave on and allow the microwave to be filled with steam. Repeat the same procedure with the mug in a different spot.

Countertops and Tables: Should be cleaned and covered.

Refrigerator: Should be cleaned.

8. METHODS OF KASHERING UTENSILS FOR PESACH

This area of practice has many complex details and nuances. It is therefore certainly preferable and admirable to maintain separate utensils for Pesach. That being said, before kashering a utensil, one needs to clean it thoroughly and be certain there is no food on it. At this point it must be put aside for a full 24 hours. After this step the paths diverge, depending upon the substance and usage.

Glass: According to some positions, glass may be kashered for Pesach by soaking it in water for 72 hours, changing the water every 24 hours. Other Ashkenazic authorities maintain that this is not a valid option. One should follow his or her custom and practice of past years. However, glass utensils used in cooking or baking should not be kashered.

Metals: Metal utensils that come in direct contact with a heat source or that are only used for boiling may be kashered by using *ha'galah* (placing them in boiling water). However, metal pans that one fries, bakes, or roasts in will need *libun* (burning). The most readily available *libun* is placing the utensil in a self-cleaning oven on self-clean.

This year, we will be hosting a Communal *Ha'galah* at CBI on Wednesday, March 28 from 7:00 – 10:00 pm. One may do his or her own *ha'galah* at home, by kashering a burner, filling a pot with water, making sure the water is in a full boil, then fully immersing the utensil, and rinsing in cool water.

9. KITCHEN ITEMS THAT CANNOT BE KASHERED FOR PESACH

The following kitchen items and or materials cannot be kashered for Pesach:

Ceramic, China, Colanders, Corning Ware, Crockpots, Dishwasher – with an interior of porcelain enamel, Grater (any), Knives with loose wood or loose plastic handles, Porcelain, Porcelain Enameled Pots, Pyrex, Teflon, Toaster/Toaster Oven, Stoneware, Wood.

10. THE STATUS OF MEDICINES DURING PESACH (ACCORDING TO THE CRC)

1. All pill medication (with or without *chametz*) that one swallows is permitted without special supervision (including Lactaid pills). Vitamins and food supplements do not necessarily fall into this category. Please consult M. Sutton regarding your specific situation.

2. Liquid and chewable medications that may contain *chametz* should only be used under the direction of a Doctor and Rabbi, who will judge the severity of the illness, the likelihood that the medicine contains *chametz*, and the possibility of substituting a swallowable pill. Important: Do not discontinue use of liquid, chewable or any other medicine without consulting with your Doctor, Rabbi and/or Maharat.

3. Liquid and chewable medications that contain *kitniot* may be consumed by someone who is ill. An otherwise healthy person, who would like to consume a liquid or chewable medicine to relieve a minor discomfort, should only do so if the product is known to be free of *kitniot*.

11. THE STATUS OF COSMETICS AND TOILETRIES DURING PESACH (ACCORDING TO THE CRC)

1. All varieties of body soaps, shampoos, and stick deodorants are permitted for use on Pesach regardless of their ingredients.

2. All types of ointments, creams, nail polish, hand lotions, eye shadow, eyeliner, mascara, blush, foot and face powders, ink or paint may be used regardless of their ingredients.

3. Colognes, perfumes, hairspray, shaving lotions and deodorants that have denatured alcohol (listed as SD, SDA, [or with a number or letter i.e. SD29C or SD40], SD Alcohol, Alcohol, Denatured Alcohol or Ethyl Alcohol) cannot be used on Pesach unless they appear on a reliable list. This only applies to products in a pure liquid state.

4. Lipsticks, toothpaste and mouthwash that contain *chametz* should not be used.

12. FAST OF THE FIRSTBORN

The "Fast of the Firstborn" is usually held on Passover eve. This year, Erev Pesach falls on Friday, March 30. It begins at 5:33 am and ends at 7:57 pm. Those obligated to fast include a firstborn son and the father of a firstborn son who is too young to fast (according to custom).

A person is permitted to break this fast by attending a *Seudat Mitzvah* — such as a *Bris Milah* or *Pidyon Haben*. It has become customary to schedule the completion of a Talmudic tractate (*siyum*) on this day, since those who join in the accompanying meal are exempted from fasting. We will be leading a *siyum* on Friday morning immediately following morning services.

13. BEDIKAT CHAMETZ - SEARCHING FOR CHAMETZ

One of the most beautiful and meaningful ceremonies associated with Passover is *bedikat chametz*—the search for *chametz*. The ceremony is composed of five parts:

1. Reciting a special blessing over the *mitzvah* of the removal of *chametz*.

2. The search of the house by the light of a candle or flashlight to find vestiges of *chametz*.

3. The reciting of the formula of nullification of *chametz*.

4. The burning or disposal of any *chametz* found during the search.

5. The reciting of a final, more inclusive formula of nullification.

This year, the search for *chametz* is held on Thursday evening, March 29, immediately at 7:58 pm. Prior to the search, we make the blessing of "Al *biyur chametz*," and after the checking we declare the nullification of *chametz* (*bitul*). The texts for the *bedikat chametz* can be found on page 654 of the Artscroll siddur or in the opening pages of many Passover Haggadahs.

14. BIYUR CHAMETZ - DESTROYING THE CHAMETZ

One is only permitted to eat *chametz* until 11:03 am on the Eve of Passover (Friday, March 30). All *chametz* must be burned or destroyed by 12:01 pm of the same day. This requirement is limited to foods under Jewish ownership. *Chametz* that has been transferred to a non-Jew need not be destroyed. *Kol chamiro* is recited at this time (this declaration can be found on page 654 of the Artscroll siddur or in the opening pages of many Passover Haggadahs).

15. CANDLE LIGHTING FOR PESACH

Candle lighting time for the first night of Passover (Friday, March 30) is 7:12 pm. A 24-hour candle should be lit at this time as well so that we may light from an existing flame on the second night of Passover. Candle lighting time for the second night of Passover (Saturday night, March 31) is after 8:11 pm. We light from an existing flame. After the departure of Shabbat, if a person has not recited *Maariv* with the prayer "Va'todieinu," he or she must say "Baruch hamavdil bein kodesh le'kodesh" before lighting candles or cooking.

16. THE SEDER NIGHT

There are five primary mitzvot of the seder night:

1. The essence of the seder is the recounting, learning, and delving into the experience of the Exodus. The Haggadah is filled with many words and ideas. Our challenge over the evening is to make them come alive, to internalize the teachings, and inspire thought and open discourse. The *ma nishtana* questions are meant to allow us to understand the importance of asking questions in this process of re-telling.

2. The eating of Matzah, the bread of liberation. To fully fulfill this mitzvah one needs to eat four *ke-zayit* of Matzah (*kezayit* literally means an olive's worth of flour) — often understood to be 1/2 of a machine made matzah, or a 1/3 of a hand-made matzah for each *ke-zayit*. One should eat two *ke-zayit* right after the hand washing, the 3rd as the *Korach* sandwich, and the 4th as the *Afikoman*. All of these eatings of Matzah should be done while leaning on your left side as an expression of luxury and freedom.

3. The Eating of *Maror*: One should eat two *ke-zayit* (if you are using romaine lettuce, each *ke-zayit* is one large leaf). One should eat one *ke-zayit* after the blessing on *maror*, and a second portion in the *Korach* sandwich.

4. The drinking of four cups of wine or grape juice. The cup should hold at least a *rivi't* (which is 3.3 ounces). One should drink most of each of these cups. While drinking, we lean to the left as an expression of luxury and freedom.

5. Praise and *Hallel*: Thanksgiving is the final and ultimate element of the Seder. One should strive to genuinely experience this fundamental sensation of gratitude.

17. SEFIRAT HA'OMER - THE COUNTING OF THE OMER

On the night of the second seder, Saturday night, March 31, we begin counting the 49 days towards the festival of Shavuot. The count takes place each night after dark. It was initially intended as a joyous period leading up to the holiday of Shavuot, however, subsequent developments in Jewish history mark parts of this time as one of mourning. One of the tragedies that occurred in this time was the death of 12,000 pairs of Torah students who did not treat each other with proper respect.

18. PESACH SEDER MATCHING

We are offering a meal matching program, as we did over the High Holidays. The process is simple. Just let us know if you have an extra place or 2, or 3, etc. at your table for the First or Second Seder. Also let us know if you need a place for the First or Second Night of Passover, and any dietary restrictions you may have. We'll make all the matching happen. Email Sara Darmoni (schnitzsa@gmail.com) whether you want to host or be a guest.

The Sale of Chametz



Sale of chametz to a non-Jew is a legally effective way to rid oneself of chametz. Such a transfer of chametz, through a legal and binding sale with a properly executed contract gives the non-Jew full title to all foods listed. For this sale to be binding, there are several necessary criteria:

1. The seller must truly believe that he/she is in fact selling something and that they view these goods as no longer theirs. The lack of this mental state invalidates any bill of sale, including this one.
2. There must be access for the buyer to the *chametz* during Pesach. That is to say, if you will be out of town you must leave a way to get into your home with proper instruction (e.g. keys with a neighbor), or you may deposit a set of keys with the agent performing the sale.
3. This transfer may be carried out through appointing an agent, with power of attorney, to sell the *chametz* through *kinyan*, a formal transfer act and contract.

NOTE: The significant act of *kinyan* should take place between each individual and the agent.

Those who wish to sell their *chametz* through CBI should enact a *kinyan* with R. Cohen. He will be available for 10 minutes after his weekly classes (please consult our class schedule for times) as well as on:

Sunday March 11, 8:40 – 9:15 am @ CBI

Sunday, March 25, 8:40 – 9:15 am @ CBI

R. Cohen will also be available at other times by appointment.

Maharat Sutton will also be available to enact a *kinyan* at the annual Sisterhood Wine Sale.

4. *Chametz* that has been sold must be put in a completely sealed-off place, not readily accessible to the seller during Pesach.

NOTE: Any *chametz* held over Pesach under Jewish ownership may not ever be used, eaten, or sold after Pesach. (Selling one's *chametz* before Pesach to a non-Jew avoids Jewish ownership during Pesach and therefore it is not subject to this injunction.)

If you have not been contacted by the buyer by 8:45 p.m. Saturday night, April 7, the buyer has reneged on the full payment and the *chametz* reverts to your ownership. However, all sellers should be aware that in past years, there has always been at least one lucky winner who has had their *chametz* bought and taken away by the buyer. If you plan to sell your *chametz* through CBI, please fill out the back of this form. It is ideal to meet with R. Cohen or Maharat Sutton to enact the *kinyan* at one of the listed times. In case of hardship, one can enact the sale by simply mailing this form back to the CBI office without the *kinyan*.

AUTHORIZATION

DELEGATION OF POWER AND AUTHORITY FOR THE SALE OF CHAMETZ (and the Bill of Sale executed in connection with such sale)

I/ We, _____, hereby fully empower and authorize R. Yonatan Cohen, and anyone he may designate as a substitute in his stead, to sell, transfer and convey before the upcoming "Pesach" all legal right and title to my "Chametz" to a non-Jew of their choice.

The term "Chametz" is intended and shall be understood to include, without limitation, any product made of wheat, barley, oats, rye or spelt and any mixture or derivative thereof, as more particularly defined in and by Torah and Rabbinic Law and Jewish Tradition. Additionally, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, "Chametz" may include the following items: schnapps and spirits; beer; cereals; noodle and pasta products; barley; ingredients used in baking; frozen foods; crackers; baked products; pet food; vitamins; wheat germ; pickles; mixes; condiments (e.g. ketchup, vinegar, etc.); cosmetics; toiletries; medicine and medicinal preparations; assorted groceries; canned foods; "Chametz" that may be affixed or attached to utensils, toys, books and seforim, appliances, baking tools, etc.

The aforementioned "Chametz" items are located and may be found primarily in the following areas (please check all areas that may apply.):

☐ Kitchen cabinets ☐ Desk ☐ Investment property located at: _____

☐ Breakfront/China closet ☐ Attic ☐ Liquor cabinet ☐ Pantry

☐ Car (which will not be used on "Pesach") ☐ Briefcase/Knapsacks ☐ Garage

which is stored at: _____

☐ Refrigerator/Freezer ☐ Closet/Cabinets ☐ Neighbor's or relative's house located at: _____

☐ Shed, Basement or Storage area ☐ Locker at school _____

☐ Medicine/Bathroom cabinets ☐ Chest or Bureau ☐ Other: _____

and shall include all "Chametz" and/or mixtures containing "Chametz" that is or may be knowingly or unknowingly in my possession (as "possession" is defined in and by Torah and Rabbinic Law and Jewish Tradition), or to which I have or may have legal responsibility in whole or in part (including corporations or other business entities which own or deal in "Chametz" in which I may have an ownership interest), or transit goods which may be delivered to me during the period commencing Friday, March 30, 2018 through Saturday night, April 7, 2018.

I further empower and authorize R. Yonatan Cohen, and anyone he may designate as a substitute in his stead, to lease or to sell, in the manner and for the time period they may deem appropriate, the places and areas where his "Chametz" items may be located. In addition, the key necessary to gain access to said places and areas where the "Chametz" items may be located can be obtained by contacting (if you will be here for "Pesach", please state "me at the address below", or, if you will be away for "Pesach", indicate whether a neighbor or friend has the keys; also, include the location of car keys, if applicable):

I hereby understand and agree that the buyer of the aforementioned "Chametz" items shall have, with the assistance and cooperation of R. Yonatan Cohen, and anyone he may designate as a substitute in his stead, free access to the "Chametz" items which he/she will be acquiring and to any area that will be leased or sold to him/her.

The "Chametz" items located in the areas set forth above have an approximate value of \$ _____. The buyer's deposit in connection with the purchase of the "Chametz" will be paid to R. Yonatan Cohen, or anyone he may designate as a substitute in his stead.

My authorization and delegation of power set forth in this Authorization shall become binding upon my execution of this Authorization in the space set forth below, and this Authorization, when delivered to the buyer with the bill of sale, shall have the same force and effect as if I had personally executed such bill of sale. In addition, my authorization and delegation of power to R. Yonatan Cohen, and anyone he may designate as a substitute in his stead, shall be given further legal force and effect by my performance of "Kinyan Suddar" - "Taking hold of garment" with R. Yonatan Cohen. This Authorization is also intended to conform to the criteria and requirements of secular law.

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Beth Israel Classes

MONDAY

Key Books in Tanach: Daniel, Ezra & Nehemiah with Maharat Victoria Sutton: These narratives tell the story of the Jewish people between the First and Second Temples. From the writing on the wall to the lion's den, we will explore the life and times of the prophet Daniel in the Babylonian court. Next, we turn to Ezra and Nehemiah, pivotal figures in the establishment of the Second Commonwealth. As we journey through this critical time in Jewish history, we will learn about these amazing figures, their challenges and choices, and how they can inform our own experiences both in the Diaspora and in Israel.

M. Victoria Sutton – Mondays • 12:00 pm.

Latte N Learn • 2121 Allston Way at the East Bay Jewish Federation. Rabbi Akiva can carpool to and from Beth Jacob if you reserve a spot that day. Also parental permission must be given via email. Carpool leaves at 7:10 and is back by 9:00. 8th graders invited too!

R. Akiva Naiman – Mondays • 7:30 pm • East Bay Jewish Federation

Leading a Participatory Intergenerational Seder: Join R. Cohen for a special hands-on practical session on leading an intergenerational participatory seder with special focus on engaging both children and adults during the meal. Learn many of the Cohen family seder secrets, tricks and recipe for a successful seder! RSVP to office@cbiberkeley.org.

R. Yonatan Cohen – Monday, March 26 • 8:00 pm

TUESDAY

Laws of Shabbat: In this class we will re-use R. Eliezer Melamed's well-organized, clear and concise halakhic (Jewish legal) writings as a springboard to deepen our understanding and our observance of the laws of Shabbat. Each class will focus on a specific area of religious practice and move from general principle to practical details.

R. Yonatan Cohen – Tuesdays • 12:00 pm.

WEDNESDAY

Open Sources - Beit Midrash: Learn independently with a *hevruta* (study partner). Learners of all levels welcome. Want to study with a partner, and not sure where to begin? Contact M. Victoria Sutton with any questions maharatvictoria@gmail.com and we will help you find a partner and get started!

Hilchot Shabbat Chabura - Guided small group study of the Laws of Shabbat: Parallel to Rabbi Cohen's Laws of Shabbat class, the group will use R Eliezer Melamed's Laws of Shabbat to deepen their understanding of Shabbat observance. Please let Maharat Victoria Sutton know if you would like to join. Book available for order at Afikomen.

M. Victoria Sutton – Wednesdays • 7:45 –9:00 pm

Nine Talmudic Readings by Emmanuel Levinas: Nine readings of the Talmud by the French Jewish philosopher Emmanuel Levinas translate Jewish thought into the language of modern times. Here Levinas applies a hermeneutic that simultaneously allows the classic Jewish texts to shed light on contemporary problems and lets modern problems illuminate the texts. Besides being quintessential illustrations of the art of reading, the essays express the deeply ethical vision of the human condition that makes Levinas one of the most important thinkers of our time.

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. Class is not meeting March 2.

R. Yonatan Cohen – Fridays • 9:00 am

SATURDAY

Study of Kima Kima (Step by Step) by Rabbi Chaim Drukman: Kima examines the sources that deal with the redemption of the Jewish people from the Bible, Talmud, Midrashim and the early Rabbinic sources. Kima Kima provides deep insights into modern Israeli Orthodox thought and philosophy of delivery from exile to redemption and the important part that the State of Israel has played in this process. Class on hiatus until after *Shavuot*.

R. David Rue – Saturdays • 8:30 am-9:15 am

Poems of the Ibn Ezra with R. David Rue—Shabbat Day: We have finished Rav Kook's poetry, and will be starting a section on Poem's of the Ibn Ezra. Meet in the Sanctuary at 12:10 pm. Class on hiatus until after *Shavuot*.

R. David Rue – Saturdays • 12:10 pm, during Kiddush

Calendar

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM PARAH

PARSHAT VAYAKHEL- PEKUDEI

Friday and Saturday, March 9-10

| | |
|--|----------|
| Candlelighting | 5:53 pm |
| Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat..... | 5:55 pm |
| Morning Service | 9:15 am |
| Childcare | 9:15 am |
| Formal Group Time | 10:30 am |
| Shabbat Mincha..... | 12:50 pm |
| Seudah Shlishit..... | 5:45 pm |
| Ma'ariv, Havdalah & Shabbat ends after | 6:51 pm |

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Sunday, March 11

Move your clocks one hour forward on Saturday night.

ROSH CHODESH NISSAN

SHABBAT HACHODESH PARSHAT VAYIKRA

Friday and Saturday, March 16-17

| | |
|--|----------|
| Candlelighting | 6:59 pm |
| Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat..... | 7:00 pm |
| Morning Service | 9:15 am |
| Childcare | 9:15 am |
| Formal Group Time | 10:30 am |
| Shabbat Mincha..... | 6:45 pm |
| Seudah Shlishit..... | 7:00 pm |
| Ma'ariv, Havdalah & Shabbat ends after | 7:57 pm |

SHABBAT HAGADOL PARSHAT TZAV

Friday and Saturday, March 23-24

| | |
|---|----------|
| Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat..... | 7:00 pm |
| Candlelighting | 7:06 pm |
| Morning Service | 9:15 am |
| Childcare | 9:15 am |
| Formal Group Time | 10:30 am |
| Pre-Pesach Drasha in memory of Eli Resnikoff, z"l delivered by R. Cohen after services..... | 11:30 pm |
| Shabbat Mincha..... | 6:50 pm |
| Seudah Shlishit..... | 7:05 pm |
| Ma'ariv, Havdalah & Shabbat ends after | 8:04 pm |

COMMUNAL HA'GALAH

Wednesday, March 28

Ha'galah at CBI

7:00 - 10:00 pm
Please Note: One may do his or her own ha'galah at home, by kashering a burner, filling a pot with water, making sure the water is in a full boil, then fully immerse the utensil, and rinse in cool water.

BEDIKAT CHAMETZ—SEARCH FOR CHAMETZ

Thursday, March 29

Search for chametz at 7:58 pm

PESACH - PASSOVER

Friday, March 30 – Saturday, April 7

EREV PESACH - EVE OF PASSOVER

TA'ANIT BECHOROT - FAST OF THE FIRSTBORN

FIRST SEDER

Friday, March 30

| | |
|---|----------|
| Fast Begins | 5:33 am |
| Morning Service | 6:30 am |
| Siyum for Firstborns after morning services | 7:15 am |
| Eat chametz until | 11:03 am |
| Burn chametz until | 12:01 pm |
| Mincha, Yom Tov Ma'ariv & Hallel | 7:00 pm |
| Candle Lighting* | 7:12 pm |
| Fast ends | 7:57 pm |
| Begin First Seder after** | 7:57 pm |

* NOTE: Before a two-day Yom Tov, it is advisable to light a 24-hour/yahrzeit candle so that on the second evening the candles may be lit by transferring the flame from this pre-existing flame.

**We begin the Seder with Kiddush of Yom Tov adding all the insertions for Shabbos.

YOM TOV -1ST DAY OF PESACH

Saturday, March 31

| | |
|--|----------|
| Morning Service | 9:15 am |
| Childcare | 9:15 am |
| Formal Group time..... | 10:30 am |
| Shabbat Yom Tov Mincha, Ma'ariv & Hallel* | 7:00 pm |
| Light Candles from pre-existing flame AFTER** .. | 8:11 pm |
| Begin Second Seder AFTER | 8:11 pm |
| Count first night of Sefirah AFTER | 8:11 pm |

*CBI will not host a communal Seudah Shlishit. On the eve of the Seder, the entire meal should take place prior to Plag Hamincha using matzah (6:14 pm).

**If a person has not recited Maariv with the prayer "Va'todieinu," he or she must say "Baruch hamavdil bein kodesh le'kodesh" before lighting candles or cooking.

***The same procedures are followed at the Seder as the previous night, however, in Kiddush, after we recite "Borei peri ha'gafen" and "Asher bachar banu," we make the blessings: "Borei meorei ha'esh" and "ha'mavdeel," followed by "she'hecheyanu."

Calendar

YOM TOV – 2ND DAY OF PESACH

Sunday, April 1

1st Day of the Omer

Morning Service 9:15 am

Yom Tov Mincha 7:15 pm

Ma'ariv, Havdalah & Yom Tov ends at 8:12 pm

* Havdalah is comprised of the blessing over the wine (borei pri ha'gafen) followed by the particular blessing of Havdalah (hamavdil bein kodesh l'chol). We omit the blessing over incense and candle.

1ST DAY OF CHOL HA'MOED PESACH

Monday, April 2

2nd Day of the Omer

Morning Service 6:30 am

2ND DAY OF CHOL HA'MOED PESACH

Tuesday, April 3

3rd Day of the Omer

Morning Service 6:30 am

3RD DAY CHOL HA'MOED PESACH

Wednesday, April 4

4th Day of the Omer

Morning Service 6:30 am

4TH DAY OF CHOL HA'MOED PESACH

Thursday, April 5

5th Day of the Omer

Morning Service 6:30 am

YOM TOV - 7TH DAY OF PESACH

Thursday night & Friday, April 5-6

6th Day of the Omer

Candle Lighting* 7:18 pm

Mincha and Yom Tom Ma'ariv 7:20 pm

Morning Service 9:15 am

Yom Tov Mincha followed by Yom Tov Ma'ariv 7:15 pm

Light Candles from pre-existing flame AT 7:19 pm

* NOTE: Before a two-day Yom Tov, it is advisable to light a 24-hour/yahrzeit candle so that on the second evening the candles may be lit by transferring the flame from this pre-existing flame.

YOM TOV – SHABBAT 8TH DAY OF PESACH

Friday night & Saturday, April 6-7

7th Day of the Omer

Yom Tov Mincha followed by Yom Tov Ma'ariv 7:15 pm

Light Candles from pre-existing flame at 7:19 pm

Morning Service 9:15 am

Childcare 9:15 am

Yizkor 10:30 am

Formal Group Time 10:30 am

Shir Ha'Shirim 11:30 am

Shabbat and Yom Tov Mincha 7:00 pm

Seudah Shelishit 7:20pm

Ma'ariv, Havdalah, Shabbat & Yom Tov ends* 8:17 pm

*If you sold your chametz through CBI and have not been contacted by 8:45 pm you may assume that your chametz has been repurchased and now belongs to you.

YOM HA'SHOAH

Wednesday night & Thursday, April 11-12

Community Commemoration of the Holocaust: Honoring the 75th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

Wednesday, April 11, 2018 • 7:30 – 9:00 pm

Congregation Beth El • 1301 Oxford St., Berkeley

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM PARSHAT SHEMINI

Friday night & Saturday, April 13-14

14th day of the Omer

Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

Candle Lighting 7:25 pm

Morning Service 9:15 am

Childcare 9:15 am

Formal Group Time 10:30 am

Shabbat Mincha 7:05 pm

Seudah Shelishit 7:20 pm

Ma'ariv, Havdalah & Shabbat ends after 8:25 pm

ROSH CHODESH IYAR

Saturday night, Sunday & Monday, April 14-16

Shacharit Sunday 8:00 am

Shacharit Monday 6:30 am

YOM HAZIKARON/

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ISRAELI SOLDIERS

Tuesday night & Wednesday, April 17-18

Shacharit 6:30 am

YOM HA'ATZMA'UT/ INDEPENDENCE DAY

Wednesday night & Thursday, April 18-19

Mincha 7:00 pm

Yom HaZikaron Commemoration followed by

Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration & Ma'ariv 7:15 pm

Celebratory Shacharit w/Hallel 6:30 am

Calendar

SHABBAT PARSHAT TAZRIAH-METZORAH

Friday night & Saturday, April 20-21

21st day of the Omer

| | |
|--|----------|
| Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat | 7:00 pm |
| Candle Lighting | 7:32 pm |
| Morning Service | 9:15 am |
| Childcare | 9:15 am |
| Formal Group Time | 10:30 am |
| Shabbat Mincha | 7:10 pm |
| Seudah Shelishit | 7:30 pm |
| Ma'ariv, Havdalah & Shabbat ends after | 8:32 pm |

SHABBAT PARSHAT ACHAREI-KEDOSHIM

Friday night & Saturday, April 27-28

28th day of the Omer

| | |
|--|----------|
| Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat | 7:00 pm |
| Candle Lighting | 7:38 pm |
| Morning Service | 9:15 am |
| Childcare | 9:15 am |
| Formal Group Time | 10:30 am |
| Shabbat Mincha | 7:15 pm |
| Seudah Shelishit | 7:35 pm |
| Ma'ariv, Havdalah & Shabbat ends after | 8:39 pm |

PESACH SHENI

29th Day of the Omer

Saturday night & Sunday, April 28-29

LAG B'OMER

33rd Day of the Omer

Wednesday night & Thursday, May 2-3

SHABBAT PARSHAT EMOR

Friday night & Saturday, May 4th & 5th

35th Day of the Omer

| | |
|--|----------|
| Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat | 7:00 pm |
| Candle Lighting | 7:44 pm |
| Morning Service | 9:15 am |
| Childcare | 9:15 am |
| Formal Group Time | 10:30 am |
| Shabbat Mincha | 7:20 pm |
| Seudah Shelishit | 7:40 pm |
| Ma'ariv, Havdalah & Shabbat ends after | 8:46 pm |

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM PARSHAT

BEHAR-BECHUKOTAI

BAR MITZVAH OF DROR NEUMEIER

Friday night & Saturday, May 11-12

42nd Day of the Omer

| | |
|--|----------|
| Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat | 7:00 pm |
| Candle Lighting | 7:51 pm |
| Morning Service | 9:15 am |
| Childcare | 9:15 am |
| Formal Group Time | 10:30 am |
| Mincha | 7:30 pm |
| Seudah Shlishit | 7:50 pm |
| Ma'ariv, Havdalah & Shabbat ends after | 8:54 pm |

YOM YERUSHALAYIM

Saturday night & Sunday, May 12-13

43rd Day of the Omer

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Shacharit w/Hallel | 8:00 am |
|--------------------------|---------|

ROSH CHODESH SIVAN

Monday night & Tuesday, May 14-15

45th Day of the Omer

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| Shacharit | 6:30 am |
|-----------------|---------|

SHABBAT PARSHAT BAMIDBAR & THE EVE OF SHAVUOT*

Friday night & Saturday, May 18-19

49th day of the Omer

| | |
|---|----------|
| Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat | 7:00 pm |
| Candle Lighting* | 7:57 pm |
| Morning Service | 9:15 am |
| Childcare | 9:15 am |
| Formal Group Time | 10:30 am |
| Mincha** | 7:50 pm |
| Pre-Shavuot Communal Learning Seudah Shlishit . | 8:10 pm |
| Maariv not before*** | 9:01 pm |
| Candle Lighting & Kiddush not before**** | 9:01 pm |

Followed by a very light Yom Tov dinner at CBI.

*NOTE: Before a Shabbat leading into a two-day Yom Tov, it is advisable to light a 24-hour/yahrzeit candle so that on the conclusion of Shabbat, the candles for Yom Tov may be lit by transferring the flame from this pre-existing flame.

**On the eve of a holiday, Seudah Shlishit must take place at least a half hour prior to Shkia'ah (sunset), so that we enter the holiday feast not fully satiated.

*** We delay the recitation of Maariv until night-fall because the count of seven weeks must be totally complete before we acknowledge the holiday of Shavuot. Insert the blessing of "Vatodieinu" to acknowledge the departure of Shabbat. If a person has not recited Maariv with the prayer "Va'todieinu," he or she must say "Baruch hamavdil bein kodesh le'kodesh" before lighting candles or cooking.

Calendar

***In Kiddush, the order is "Borei pri ha'gafen," "Asher ab-char banu," "Borei meorei ha'eish," "ha'mavdeil bein kodesh le'kodesh," and "she'hecheyanu." This order is otherwise known as "YaKNeHaZ" an acronym for wine (yayin), kiddush (a blessing specifically sanctifying the holiday), candle (ner), havdalah, and time (z'man).

SHAVUOT

Saturday night, Sunday & Monday, May 19-21

EVE OF SHAVUOT*

* NOTE: Before a Shabbat leading into a two-day Yom Tov, it is advisable to light a 24-hour/yahrzeit candle so that on the conclusion of Shabbat, the candles for Yom Tov may be lit by transferring the flame from this pre-existing flame.

1st NIGHT SHAVUOT

Saturday Night, May 19

Candle Lighting AFTER* 9:01 pm

Yom Tov Ma'ariv** 9:01 pm

Community-wide Tikkun L'eyl Shavuot after CBI services until dawn at Berkeley Richmond JCC, 1414 Walnut @ Rose. Orthodox morning services @ the JCC.

*If a person has not recited Maariv with the prayer "Va'todieinu," he or she must say "Baruch hamavdil bein kodesh le'kodesh" before lighting candles or cooking.

**In Kiddush, the order is "Borei pri ha'gafen," "Asher ab-char banu," "Borei meorei ha'eish," "ha'mavdeil bein kodesh le'kodesh," and "she'hecheyanu." This order is otherwise known as "YaKNeHaZ" an acronym for wine (yayin), kiddush (a blessing specifically sanctifying the holiday), candle (ner), havdalah, and time (z'man).

1ST DAY OF SHAVUOT

Sunday, May 20

Early Shacharit @ JCC* 5:35 am

Regular Yom Tov Shacharit @CBI 9:15 am

Yom Tov Mincha** & Ma'ariv 6:35 pm

Communal Shavuot Dinner 7:10 pm

Light candles from a pre-existing flame .. AFTER 9:01 pm

*The Amidah service will be recited at Netz Hachmah (sunrise) at 5:55 am

**Plag Hamincha is at 6:51 pm.

2ND DAY OF SHAVUOT

Monday, May 21

Morning Service 9:15 am

Yizkor 11:00 am

Megillat Ruth 11:30 am

Yom Tov Mincha 8:00 pm

Ma'ariv 9:00 pm

Havdalah & Yom Tov end after 9:02 pm

SHABBAT PARSHAT NASO

BAR MITZVAH OF SHALOM SPIVAK

Friday night & Saturday, May 25-26

Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

Candle Lighting 8:02 pm

Morning Service 9:15 am

Childcare 9:15 am

Formal Group Time 10:30 am

Shabbat Mincha 7:40 pm

Seudah Shelishit 8:00 pm

Ma'ariv, Havdalah & Shabbat ends after 9:07 pm

SHABBAT PARSHAT BEHA'ALOTCHAH

Friday night & Saturday, June 1-2

Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 pm

Candle Lighting 8:08 pm

Morning Service 9:15 am

Childcare 9:15 am

Formal Group Time 10:30 am

Shabbat Mincha 7:50 pm

Seudah Shelishit 8:10 pm

Ma'ariv, Havdalah & Shabbat ends after 9:13 pm

SAVE THE DATE • CBI'S ANNUAL GALA

Sunday, June 3



Times for Action

— TIMES FOR ACTION —

Many commandments need to be performed during particular times of the day; here is a list of those times
All times are for Berkeley, Pacific Standard Time, until March 11; then for Daylight Savings Time

| Week of | March 3 | March 10 | March 17 | March 24 | March 31 | April 7 | April 14 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Alot Ha'Shachar Dawn | 5:26 am | 5:15 am | 6:05 am | 5:54 am | 5:44 am | 5:33 am | 5:22 am |
| Neitz-Sunrise | 6:38 am | 6:27 am | 7:17 am | 7:06 am | 6:56 am | 6:45 am | 6:35 am |
| Latest ideal time for the morning Sh'ma | 9:29 am | 9:24 am | 10:17 am | 10:11 am | 10:05 am | 9:58 am | 9:52 am |
| Latest time for prayer Tefilah | 10:27 am | 10:22 am | 11:17 am | 11:12 am | 11:08 am | 11:03 am | 10:58 am |
| Mincha Gedolah Earliest time for Mincha | 12:50 pm | 12:49 pm | 1:48 pm | 1:46 pm | 1:45 pm | 1:44 pm | 1:42 pm |
| Sh'kia Sunset | 6:05 pm | 6:12 pm | 7:18 pm | 7:25 pm | 7:31 pm | 7:38 pm | 7:44 pm |
| Tzeit Ha'kochavim Nightfall | 6:47 pm | 6:54 pm | 8:00 pm | 8:07 pm | 8:13 pm | 8:20 pm | 8:26 pm |

| Week of | April 21 | April 28 | May 5 | May 12 | May 19 | May 26 | June 2 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Alot Ha'Shachar Dawn | 5:13 am | 5:05 am | 4:57 am | 4:50 am | 4:44 am | 4:39 am | 4:36 am |
| Neitz-Sunrise | 6:25 am | 6:17 am | 6:09 am | 6:02 am | 5:56 am | 5:51 am | 5:48 am |
| Latest ideal time for the morning Sh'ma | 9:47 am | 9:42 am | 9:37 am | 9:34 am | 9:31 am | 9:29 am | 9:28 am |
| Latest time for prayer Tefilah | 10:54 am | 10:50 am | 10:47 am | 10:44 am | 10:42 am | 10:41 am | 10:41 am |
| Mincha Gedolah Earliest time for Mincha | 1:42 pm | 1:41 pm | 1:41 pm | 1:41 pm | 1:42 pm | 1:43 pm | 1:44 pm |
| Sh'kia Sunset | 7:51 pm | 7:57 pm | 8:04 pm | 8:10 pm | 8:16 pm | 8:21 pm | 8:26 pm |
| Tzeit Ha'kochavim Nightfall | 8:33 pm | 8:39 pm | 8:46 pm | 8:52 pm | 8:58 pm | 9:03 pm | 9:08 pm |

WEEKDAY SERVICES

SHACHARIT

Monday-Friday • 6:30 am
Sunday & Legal Holidays • 8:00 am

MINCHA/MA'ARIV

Five minutes after candlelighting

Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat 5 minutes after candlelighting

Morning Service 9:15 am

Infertility Support: Creating Community Where There Is None

By: Ariel Wolgel

OUR JOURNEY

Month after month we prayed for a blessing, and month after month we were met with disappointment. Where we had hoped for a new life growing inside me, a feeling of emptiness grew instead. After a couple of years, we sought medical help and were quickly thrown into a world of tests and invasive procedures. As the emptiness and uncertainty continued to grow, so did a looming feeling of loneliness.

Going to shul became an emotionally painful experience as everywhere I turned there were reminders of the children I longed for and feared I would never have. Sweet children leading Adon Olam during services, precious newborns being held in their parents' arms, toddlers dressed in little vests and frilly dresses- these images heightened my awareness of the deep brokenness I felt. At times my emotional state manifested itself physically in my body – an anxious sensation in my stomach or a tightening in my shoulders as I walked through the hallways of synagogue. When going to shul became too tough, I opted to stay home in my pajamas, drinking coffee and reading magazines, instead of joining the community in prayer. While this felt good for my emotional and physical self, my soul still longed for support and connection. I wished that my Jewish communal experiences could be a source of strength instead of a platform for pain.

I have had a strong connection to Jewish faith and ritual since I was a young child. I love how Shabbat, holidays, and prayer add sacredness to the mundane routines of day-to-day life. I've found that Jewish lifecycle events provide an avenue to honor the passage of time, be it through celebration, gratitude, grief, or support.

However, with each baby naming, Brit Milah, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, or wedding that I attended, I questioned: How can Judaism strengthen me as I experience our "lack of a life cycle event?" As I dreamt of welcoming our potential children into the Jewish community with meaningful ceremonies, I craved a connection to my faith during this period of uncertainty.

During this time I also began to feel a sense of social isolation. It seemed as though everyone around me was blessed with growing families, and I found that the majority of my friends' conversations centered around pregnancy and children. Beyond my deep desire to share in those experiences, I believed that I had nothing to contribute to those conversations. I started to feel myself closing off from others, a well of tears often on the brink of overflowing.

The isolation magnified my emotions. Sadness closed me off from others and grew stronger as it fueled the loneliness. I was in a constant loop of despair. I didn't like the dark feelings growing inside me, so I spoke to close friends, therapists, and eventually I found other people who struggled with infertility.

As I reached out to others, I realized that while being in this situation was not our choice, coping with this process was within my control. In a rather helpless situation, this realization empowered me. Talking to people about infertility brought me strength, support, and hope. Even my friends with small children and pregnant bellies made space in their hearts to be there for me, and I am eternally grateful for their kindness. In short, I learned that people are able to rise to the occasion when given the opportunity.

When I began opening up to others, I also became more open to my faith. I felt validated by characters in the Bible who struggled with infertility, and I was inspired by their various coping methods. I found certain prayers, blessings and psalms to be meaningful ways to express my uncertainties, fears, hopes, and dreams to the Creator of Life. I turned to God with numerous emotions – I prayed that my husband and I would be strengthened and that our doctors would have the tools to help us expand our family.

Yet even with this newfound social and spiritual openness, I still felt disconnected from Jewish communal and ritual life. Especially after several failed IVF cycles, I needed an outside force to give me the strength to keep going. While we were doing everything necessary to physically prepare my body for our upcoming IVF cycle, I desired a way to prepare myself spiritually as well.

And so, I turned to my friends and my faith.

MY RESPONSE

On a rainy night in Michigan, a group of women from various parts of my life gathered together around our dining room table. They were mothers of grown children, new mothers of babies and toddlers, and single women. They were friends from our synagogue community, colleagues from work, and my former roommate. Some personally identified with the struggle of infertility, yet all of us joined in a supportive evening of sisterhood.

After I shared a Dvar Torah, each person read a verse from the Bible that related to fertility and then lit a candle. There were eight verses and candles in total – eight being the reduced gematria (numerical value) of the word neshama (soul), and a number that represents the concept of lemalah min hateva (beyond nature). Lighting each candle was a symbol of hope that a new soul would be brought into this world. Additionally, the candles rested

on a tray filled with star confetti and sand, reminiscent of God's promise that the Jewish people would be as numerous as the sand and the stars.

We recited a chapter of Psalms and said some prayers taken from traditional Jewish texts. One of my friends facilitated a meaningful art project to help everyone convey well wishes for our upcoming procedure. Several women expressed thoughtful insights and reflected on their own journeys with infertility. We shared some laughs, a few tears, and many hugs. As the women left and returned to their homes, their supportive presence remained with me.

REFLECTION

Our Jewish treasury is rich with inspiration to support us through complex human experiences. Developing this ritual gave me a pathway to direct my emotions and helped me spiritually prepare for the upcoming procedure. The creative process challenged me to take more ownership over my Jewish experience, by

searching and innovating when I experienced an absence of meaning.

The social and spiritual connectedness I felt that evening gave me strength to approach our next embryo transfer with positivity, hope, and peace. While I wish that we never had to endure the struggles of infertility, I appreciate everything I learned on our journey to parenthood.

Three and half years later, I often think of that night while I watch our beautiful twins engage in art projects at the dining room table. I gaze at their sweet and curious natures with a deep sense of awe and gratitude. I think of our precious children when I thank God for the "miracles that are with us each day" in the modim blessing of the amidah.

I hope that sharing this ceremony will help bring strength and hope to others who are struggling with feelings of emptiness or lack of connection. I pray that all those experiencing infertility and other struggles will find

the support they need. And I also pray that during dark and uncertain times, people can allow others to be a source of light and presence.

May we all recognize when it's important to seek the presence of others and realize as well when we need to be present for others. This, in my understanding, is the essence of true community.

This article first appeared on the website of Yesh Tikva, "A Jewish Fertility Community."

For a full copy of the Ceremony Prior to Fertility Treatment by Ariel Wolgel, or for further support, please contact R. Cohen or M. Sutton.



HOMELESS SHELTER

Upcoming Dates

Please Join Us!

Wednesday, March 28

Wednesday, April 25

Wednesday, May 23

Wednesday, June 27



UPCOMING EVENTS

LEADING A PARTICIPATORY INTERGENERATIONAL SEDER

Monday, March 26 • 8:00 pm

Join R. Cohen for a special hands-on practical session on leading an intergenerational participatory seder with special focus on engaging both children and adults during the meal. Learn many of the Cohen family seder secrets, tricks and recipe for a successful seder! RSVP to office@cbiberkeley.org.

CHOOSING LIFE: AGNON'S SHOAH WITH YONATAN COHEN

Monday, April 9 • 7:00 pm • 8:30 pm

Jewish Community Library 1835 Ellis Street San Francisco

Free admission with free garage parking on Pierce Street between Ellis and Eddy streets.

S.Y. ("Shai") Agnon, né Shmuel Yosef Halevi Czaczkes, was one of the greatest writers of modern Hebrew literature. In 1966, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for chronicling the life and spirit of the Jewish people.

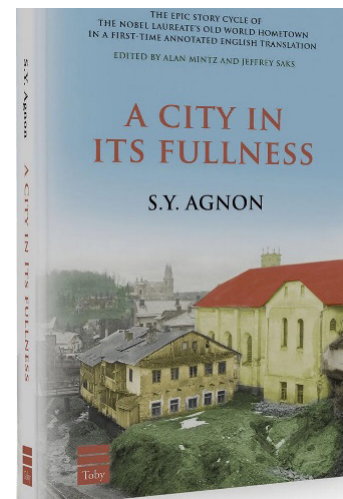
In *The Sign*, S.Y. Agnon offers a unique statement about the role of literature in the aftermath of the Shoah's horrors. In this study session, Rabbi Cohen will lead a close reading of sections of this powerful short story, with material from the newest translation of Agnon's monumental work, *A City in its Fullness*.

We will be using translations by Alan Mintz z"l, a great scholar of Agnon's work. Co-presented by Congregation Beth Israel and the Consulate General of Israel. Program made possible, in part, by Anne Germanacos.

YOM HASHOAH V'HAGEVURAH

Wednesday, April 11 • 7:30-9:00 pm

Community Commemoration of the Holocaust:
Honoring the 75th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising
Congregation Beth El • 1301 Oxford St., Berkeley
This commemoration is made possible by a grant from the Tillie and Rene Molho Fund for Holocaust Remembrance of the Jewish Community Foundation
and sponsored by the Jewish Federation of the East Bay.
Admission is free. For more information, contact
Judith Markowitz at judith@jfed.org or 510-809-4901.



UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED

YOM HAZIKARON/YOM HA'ATZMAUT

Tuesday, April 17th • 8-9 pm

Erev Shirah in Commemoration of Yom HaZikaron

TEKES HAMA'AVAR

Wednesday, April 18th • 7:15 pm

Join us as we mark the transition from commemorating Yom Ha'Zikaron, Memorial Day, to celebrating Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Independence Day. We will honor the memories of those who have fallen, and express our gratitude for the Land of Israel. Tekes will conclude with Celebratory Ma'ariv and Hallel, followed by food and music.

AVIVA ZORNBERG

Sing – Now! – to God! • Miriam and Moses

Sunday, April 22nd • 7:00 pm

Chochmat Halev • 2215 Prince Street, Berkeley

\$15 members of co-sponsoring organizations • \$20 general public

Register at chochmat.org. The history of Miriam, the prophetess who speaks enviously of her brother Moses, offers an intimate glimpse of the tensions between brother and sister, both leaders, both prophets. Midrashic material will illuminate this mysterious relationship. Dr. Avivah Zornberg is one of the most dynamic and compelling interpreters of the Bible alive. She weaves together ideas from literature, secular philosophy, psychology and the ancient teachers' take on the texts. It is entirely engaging and built for the 21st century.



WOMEN'S TEFILLAH AND SEUDAH SHELISHIT

Saturday, May 5th

Join us for our monthly women's tefillah meeting, including Shabbat Mincha with Torah reading, followed by women's seudah shelishit and learning. All are welcome to stay for Ma'ariv and havdallah with community.

5:00 pm • WT Shabbat Mincha with Torah

5:30 pm • WT Seudah shelishit and Learning



SAVE THE DATE:

SHAVUOT 2ND NIGHT COMMUNAL DINNER

Sunday, May 20th • 7:10 pm

Join us for Mincha at 6:35 pm, followed by a delicious Shavuot dinner and shared words of Torah.

SHAVUOT

MISHMASH • SHAVUOT

Sunday, May 20th • 4:00-6:00 pm

On the first day of Shavuot, CBI's Mishmash, a one-on-one parent-child learning program for children in grades 1-8 and their parents, will join for a special festive afternoon of learning and feasting. This is a unique opportunity for families to learn together on the very day the Torah was given to the Children of Israel.

In the past few months, parent-child *chevrutas* learned from a variety of sources: the weekly parasha, Mishna and Talmud, prayer, bar/bat mitzvah portions and more. The CBI social hall and library were transformed into a *beit midrash* filled with the sounds of Torah study, as more than a dozen families participated weekly. Each session closed with every child sharing something they had learned that week in their *chevruta* with the group.



Ashkenaz/Sefarad

A SPECIAL SHABBAT SHALEM SERIES



Congregation
Beth Israel



Dr. Zvi Zohar Shabbat • April 27-28

Zvi Zohar is a senior research fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute. He is the Chauncey Stillman Professor of Sephardic Law and Ethics at Bar-Ilan University, where he teaches in the Faculties of Law and Jewish Studies and is editor in chief of the international Journal of Law, Religion and State. At Shalom Hartman Institute, he heads the Alan and Loraine Fischer Family Center for Halakha.

Israel at 70

POLITICAL THOUGHT, PROSE, & POETRY



Congregation
Beth Israel



Dr. Bernie Steinberg Thursday • 7:30 pm • May 10, 17, 24

Covenant and Land: From Abraham to the present, Israel has been a constituent component of God's covenant with the Jewish people. Jewish thinkers throughout the ages have struggled hard to understand the meaning and claim of this covenant within the ups and downs of Jewish history. During this course, we shall explore classical and modern Jewish sources on the meaning and purpose of Israel within the overarching framework of covenant.

Dr. Bernie Steinberg, Director Emeritus, Harvard Hillel, teaches at the Graduate Theological Union, Kevah in Berkeley, and M2 The Institute for Experiential Jewish Education, based in Chicago. He recently wrote an essay on Maimonides for Oxford University Press Bibliographies.

Looking for Scrip?

CBI has \$4,000 of Oakland Kosher Foods scrip in the denomination of \$25.

When you buy the scrip from CBI the shul makes 5%.

Last year we ran out well before the holiday began so please contact Naomi Stamper or Ruth Wittman and let us know how much you wish to purchase. We can also easily provide you with Berkeley Bowl, Afikomen and Safeway scrip.

Happy cleaning and happy shopping!

Contact Naomi Stamper or Ruth Wittman with questions.
nstamper@sbcglobal.net • rhwitt72@aol.com



Morasha Legacy Society

*Our commitment to our beloved community is evident in everything we do.
Now each of us can extend our commitment into the future.
Please consider joining us.*

For more information or to join the Society please contact:

Noah Alper • noahalper@gmail.com

Rena Rosen • t.rosenfamily@comcast.net.

Paul & SerachBracha Albert • Fran Alexander • Noah & Hope Alper • Anonymous (3)
Ron & Bella Barany • Dan z"l & Judith Bloom • Benjamin & Sara Darmoni
Nimrod & Aliza Elias • Jane Falk • Malcolm Feeley & Rivka Amado
Alan Finkelstein & Leslie Valas • Sam Ginsburg • David & Diane Gould • Ezra & Toby Hendon
Sam & Bathea James • Russell Kassman • Gary & Ilene Katz • Jesse and Gabriella Kellerman
Seymour Kessler • Alan & Elissa Kittner • Aaron Marcus • Gary & Lois Marcus
Ed & Phyllis Miller • Joel & Irene Resnikoff • Ben Rose & Rebecca Landes
Mordy & Rena Rosen • Harry & Dorothy Rubin • Bob & June Safran • Ory Sandel
SaraLeya Schley • Carol Shivel • Steve Silberblatt & Rita Kohl • Bob & Naomi Stamper
David & Rikki Sudikoff • Justin & Sheba Sweet • Linda & Stanley Wulf



Memorial Plaques

To memorialize your loved one, you may wish to purchase a memorial plaque to be placed on the memorial board in the sanctuary.

Besides ensuring that Kaddish will be recited perpetually in the name of your beloved deceased, you will receive a notice annually of the date of the yahrzeit and the date the yahrzeit will be observed by the recitation of Kaddish.

The cost of a memorial plaque is \$360.

To purchase contact Carol Cunradi
510.234.1003 cunradi@sbcglobal.net
CBI Office 510.843.5246
office@cbiberkeley.org

THE ANNUAL BETH ISRAEL PHONATHON



A hearty and sincere thank you to all who helped make our telethon such a great success this year! Over \$29,000 was pledged, helping us to exceed our goal of \$26,400. Your generosity supports our unique programs at Beth Israel. Special thanks to our team of volunteers, consisting of seasoned and first-time callers: Leslie Valas, Lois Marcus, Irene Resnikoff, Rona Rothenberg, Maxine Winer, Naomi Stamper, Barbara Budnitz, Irene Resnikoff, Sara Darmoni, Josh Ladon, and Miriam Barrere.

And thank you of course to all of our generous donors listed below! Toddah-Rabbah!

May we go from strength to strength!

Eliezah Hoffman and Carol Cunradi, Co-Chairs

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Kellerman, Jesse & Gabriella
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Morgan, Jeff & Jodie
Wulf, Stanley & Press-Wulf, Linda

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Harari, Jacob & Rena
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Lawton, Leora
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November 4 – in honor of Susan Jacobson: Anonymous, Bella and Ron Barany, Alisa Einwohner, Rose and Sam Ginsburg, Toby & Ezra Hendon, Susan Jacobson, Dan Lewis, Laura Lipman, Marilyn Markowitz, Paul & Anna Belle Panish, Jonathan Purcell, Dorothy & Harry Rubin, June & Bob Safran; Rebecca Landes & Ben Rose in memory of Rebecca's sister Carmi on her 4th *yahrzeit*

November 11: New Members and Newcomers Kiddush: CBI Sisterhood, Marily Benson, Shira Desta, Chaya Ryvka Diehl, Ron Elkayam, Natan & Renana Goldstein, Shulamis Green, Elie Hassenfeld & Talia Falk, Daniel & Eliezh Hoffman, Susan Jacobson, Zvika & Ayelet Krieger, Aric Lasry & Johana Afenjar, Cynthia Levinson, Elizabeth Levinsky, Ariel Mayse & Adina Polen, James Mitrani, Noah & Melissa Nathan, Marc Roth, Avi Sadi & Inbal Cohen-Sadi, Noam Saper, Luna Schector, Tali Singer, Rachel Treisman, Ruth Wiseman

November 18: In Honor of Dorothy Rubin on her 90th Birthday: Rhoda Agin; Paul & Serach Bracha Albert; Fran Alexander; Hope & Noah Alper; Bella & Ron Barany; Yehuda Ben-Israel & Rona Rothenberg; Judith Bloom; Andrea Brott; Joan Brunswick; Bob & Barbara Budnitz; Ljuba Davis; Sanne DeWitt; Alisa Einwohner; Marv & Sara Engel; Jane Falk; Jory & Lisa Gessow; Preston & Anya Grant; Sam Haber; Hank Hanig; Yaacov & Rena Harari; Ezra & Toby Hendon; Yvette Hoffer; Susan Jacobson; Ronna Kabatznick & Peter Dale Scott; Na'aman & Meechal Kam; Alan & Elissa Kittner; Michael & Jessica Klass; Brinah Krelstein; Natan & Lili Kuchar; Gladys & Phil Leider; Deborah & Michael Lesser; Laura Lipman; Gary & Lois Marcus; Aaron Marcus; Marilyn Markowitz; Sondra & Jonah Markowitz; Glenn & Judy Massarano; Allen Mayer; Paul & Anna Belle Panish; Miriam Petruck; Irene & Joel Resnikoff; Shulamit Rosner; Bob & June Safran; Cynthia Scheinberg, Eliahu Klein & Gavi Klein; SaraLeya Schley; Muni & Tania Schweig; Eric & Rachel Seder; Violette & Henry Sibony; Steve Silberblatt & Rita Kohl; David Spieler & Rachel Schorr; Bob & Naomi Stamper; Bernie & Roz Steinberg; Mimi Weisel & Paul Hamburg; Fried & Ruth Wittman; Linda & Stan

Wulf; Sheila & Marvin Yudenfreund; Marti & Shelly Zedeck

November 25: The Wulf Family, the Cohen Family, the Valas Finkelstein Family, and Bob and Naomi Stamper, in honor of Yoni Wulf, who is home on leave from the IDF.

December 2: in celebration of Rita Kuhn's 90th birthday: Rita's Daughters: Rachel Durling, Sarah Durling, Ruth Wiseman; Paul & Serach Bracha Albert; Anonymous; Marily Benson; Avraham & Ruchama Burrell; Sanne DeWitt; Jane Falk; Sam & Rose Ginsburg; Yaakov & Rena Harari; Wendy Kenin; Alan & Elissa Kittner; Glenn & Judith Massarano; Bob & June Safran; Tania & Muni Schweig; Henry & Violette Sibony; Abe & Laila Stone; Fried & Ruth Wittman; Marvin & Sheila Yudenfreund

December 9 – in honour of Amalya Lehmann on her last Shabbat in Berkeley! Benjamin Epstein, Matty Lichtenstein & Zvi Rosen, Ariel Weiss, Jamie Conway & Meena Viswanath, Miriam Barrere, Lauren & Dean Robinson, Elan Weinstock & Sarah Silverman, Rachel Treisman & Noam Saper, Eden Gerson & Chanan Zupnick, Lior Rose, Tali Singer, James Mitrani, Eliezh & Daniel Hoffman, Noah & Melissa Nathan, Paul & Serach Bracha Albert, M. Victoria Sutton & Adam Brelow, Avraham & Ruchama Burrell, Rona Teitelman

December 16: The Bamberger Family in honor of the bar mitzvah of Isaiah Bamberger

December 23: Irene and Joel Resnikoff in honor of their 47th anniversary; Jonathan Purcell in honor of his visiting sister, Beth Purcell; Anna & Aaron Gonshor in appreciation of the CBI community

December 30: Friends of Joseph Friedman in gratitude for all he does: Nimrod & Aliza Elias, Jory & Lisa Gessow, Jeff & Doreet Stein, Ruchama & Avraham Burrell. Noam Saper and Rachel Treisman in honor of the Saper family visit

January 6: Carol and Jim Cunradi in memory of Carol's dad, Chaim Behr ben Mordechai haCohen v'Leah, on his 7th *yahrzeit*

January 13: The Mitrani family, for the good health of the CBI community

January 20: in honor of Albert Magid's 90th birthday, by his children and grandchildren

January 27: The Yudenfreund and Sparks families, and Sam and Bathea James and Marti and Shelly Zedeck on the occasion of Marvin's 75th birthday

February 3: Rhoda Agin in memory of the *yahrzeits* of her dear parents Diana (Sheina Dina) Itzkowitz Agin and Irving (Yitzchak) Agin of blessed memory; Ezra & Toby Hendon in memory of Ezra's father Yaakov ben Aharon; Miriam R L Petruck commemorating the *yahrzeit* of her father, Rabbi Marvin Petruck; Rachel and Eric Seder in memory of William Spielman and Harold Seder on their *yahrzeits*; Leslie Valas and Alan Finkelstein in memory of Lee Valas and Harry Valas on their *yahrzeits*

February 10: In Honor of CBI Women's Tefillah: Hilla Abel; Serach Bracha Albert; Sara Bamberger; Andrea Brott; Jane Falk; Ronna Kabatznick; Judy Massarano: Mazal tov to the women of all ages of CBI! May your voices ring out loud and clear and strong, as we continue to expand our repertoire of skills. In appreciation for all of you and Maharat Victoria Sutton for renewing our commitment and furthering our growth; The Mirandas in honor of Rebecca Miranda who will be laying at the Women's Tefillah Service and all the other inspirational women in our shul; Sarit Oster; Luna Schector; Doreet Stein; M. Victoria Sutton; Rona Teitelman; Meena Viswanath. Carol and Jim Cunradi in honor of the birth of Rona Rothenberg's and Yehuda Ben-Israel's grandson, and in honor of the birth of Emmett Elisha Heitler

February 17: Avraham and Ruchama Burrell in celebration of the anniversary of their engagement on February 15, 1990 and in gratitude for their continued good health; Rita Kuhn in gratitude for the release of her new novel *Another Ruth*; Ruth Wiseman in celebration of the publication of her mother's novel; Violette Sibony in memory of the *yahrzeit* of her mother Simha Rosilio bat Hanina; The Brelow/Sutton family in honor of the joyous month of Adar, and all three of our Adar birthdays

Kiddush Wine: Covenant Winery with special thanks to the Morgan Family

MAZAL TOV!

To Tamar and Ory Sandel, big sisters Talya and Gaby and big brother Eytan on the birth of a baby boy, Erez Leor Chayim, on November 2, 2017.

To parents Joshua and Rivkie Schickman and big brother Jacob, and to grandparents Mark and Susan Schickman and Zvi & Sarah Elfbaum of West Hartford, CT on the birth of a baby girl in New York.

To Mimi Weisel & Paul Hamburg on the birth of a grandson Ya'akov Zechariah (Jacob Zeke) Shefrin.

To Dorielle Parker and Josh Fleet on the birth of a baby boy, Maayan Lev-Yam Fleet on January 16.

To parents Rachel & Jacob Heitler, big sisters Orly & Maya, grandparents Leslie Valas & Alan Finkelstein and Susan & Bruce Heitler on the birth of a baby boy, Emmett Elisha Heitler on January 17.

To Leah Kahn & Darrell Cohn on the birth of a baby girl, Hadar Yael on January 23.

To grandparents Rona Rothenberg and Yehuda Ben-Israel on the birth of a baby boy on Tu B'shevat to their son David Ben-Israel and wife Jamie Rosen.

To parents Sarah Emma Garelick and JC Johnson, and grandparents Kayla and Morey Garelick and Judy Wilkinson on the birth of a baby girl, Daniela Mariah Johnson.

To great-grandparents Lois & Joe Wolf on the birth of a second great-grandchild, a daughter born to their grandson, Moshe Vecht and his wife, Naama.

To Inbal Cohen-Sadi, Avi Sadi & big brother Daniel Sadi on the birth of a baby girl, Shira.

To grandparents Hope & Noah Alper and Hadassah & Jeff Wrightman and new parents Naama Wrightman & David Alper on the birth of a baby girl, Aviv Lily.

To Rachel Factor & Bruno Salama and siblings Benjamin and Noa on the birth of a baby girl, Ana on March 3.

May these children's lives be filled with the insights of Torah, the warm and supportive love of family and community, and the blessing of good deeds. Mazal Tov!

To the Treisman and Saper families on the engagement of Rachel Treisman & Noam Saper.

To Alan Finkelstein & Leslie Valas and Bobby & Nancy Isaacson on the engagement of Ari Finkelstein & Lissy Isaacson.

To Issy & Patricia Kipnis on the wedding in Mexico of Hillel Kipnis and Sarit Toltzis.

May these couples build homes filled with the light of Torah and mitzvot. May their families and our community have many more occasions to celebrate in simchah together. Mazal tov!

BARUCH DAYAN EMET CONDOLENCES

We deeply regret to inform you of the passing of **Gilbert (Gert) Bendix**, beloved father of Erica Azim, Desmid Lyon and Jacob Bendix, grandfather of Shaya, Benjamin, Joachim and Sam Lyon, Miriam Snoyman, Nyaradzo, Dzashe and Chiedza Kundidzora and Anyi, Ailin and Lanya Liebler-Bendix; and great grandfather of Angelina and Zoe Lyon, Eliezer, Gavriella, Yakov and Lavi Snoyman and Ishmael and Alexander Kundidzora.

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YOUR CHAI-LIGHTS TEAM

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Gan Shalom Office • 510 848-3298
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ANNIVERSARIES

Yonatan & Laya Cooperman, March 11, 5th anniversary
Jacob & Rena Harari, March 28, 59th anniversary
Jim & Carol Cunradi, March 29, 34th anniversary
Benjamin & Sara Darmoni, April 2, 6th anniversary
Jeff & Doreet Stein, April 2, 23rd anniversary
Steven & Joan Ominsky, April 4, 53rd anniversary
Michael & Deborah Lesser, April 6, 49th anniversary
Noah & Hope Alper, May 25, 32nd anniversary
Asaf Shor & Hilla Abel, May 26, 13th anniversary
Gilad Buchman & Racheli Perl, May 31, 15th anniversary

BIRTHDAYS

Susan Jacobson, March 1
Matthew Jacob Weiss, March 2, 6th birthday
Sasha Mandel, March 3, 12th birthday
Ori Rappoport, March 3, 11th birthday
Yehuda Ben-Israel, March 4
Reuben Lewis, March 4, 14th birthday
Desmid Lyon, March 4
Nadav Gilbert, March 5, 5th birthday
Shoshana Katler, March 8, 13th birthday
Michael Lesser, March 8
Gabriel Feiner, March 9, 17th birthday
Adi Kamenetz, March 9, 1st birthday
Sheila Yudenfreund, March 9
Sigmund Astmann, March 10, 2nd birthday
Ari Libenson, March 10, 16th birthday
Susan Schickman, March 10
Ronald Barany, March 11
Molly Nadav, March 12
Paul Panish, March 12
Naomi Stamper, March 12
Adi Rappoport, March 13, 13th birthday
Yonatan Cooperman, March 14
Sara Engel, March 14
Ezekiel Dov Gerwein, March 14, 17th birthday
Howard Felson, March 15
Russell Kassman, March 15
Brinah Krelstein, March 16
Yuval Loewenberg, March 17, 12th birthday
Mark Schickman, March 17
Katriel Kuchar, March 19, 4th birthday
Linda Lantos, March 19
Jim Cunradi, March 20
Alison Jordan, March 21
Simcha Fenton, March 22, 10th birthday
Jeremy Evnine, March 24
N. R. Golomb, March 24
Samuel Levi Kabella, March 24, 10th birthday
David Spieler, March 24
Aya Krantz, March 25, 10th birthday
Amalya Lehmann, March 25
Abigail Rudnick, March 26
Dennis Levi, March 27
Marti Zedeck, March 27
Chaya Ryvka Diehl, March 28
Sondra Markowitz, March 28
Nahum Mayse, March 28, 3rd birthday
Sara Darmoni, March 29
Jared Elias, March 29
Ariel Spagnolo, March 30, 13th birthday
Jeff Stein, March 30
Noa Kramarz, March 31
Lauren Schuchart, March 31
Ahron Shlomo Schweig, March 31, 9th birthday
Gil Stein, March 31, 14th birthday
Joshua Willner, April 1
Katrin Arefy, April 5
Joel Brodsky, April 5
Deborah Lesser, April 5
Anna Belle Panish, April 5
Joshua Reich, April 5
Tania Schweig, April 6
Fran Quittel, April 7
Laya Cooperman, April 8
Chaim Mahgel-Friedman, April 8
Naomi Kincler, April 9
Glenn Massarano, April 9
Max Heitler Bamberger, April 10, 15th birthday
Nitzan Loewenberg, April 10, 16th birthday
Miriam Petruck, April 11
Robinn Magid, April 12
Sara Teitelbaum, April 12, 12th birthday
David Miller, April 13
Ori Kanefsky, April 16
Aaron Blumenfeld, April 18
Zohar Ladon, April 19, 3rd birthday
Maayan Fenton, April 20, 4th birthday
Liora Brosbe, April 23
Maya Frayda Elias, April 23, 6th birthday
Diane Cohen, April 25
Hoshaya Cohen, April 25, 9th birthday
Michael Greenwald, April 25
Roni Alperin, April 26
Boaz Buchman-Perl, April 27, 11th birthday
Bat Sheva Miller, April 27
Kochava Neumeier, April 27, 5th birthday
Maxine Winer, April 28
Jesse Matan Gerwein, April 29, 14th

birthday

Jennifer Panish, April 29
Carol Cunradi, April 30
Elijah Isaacson, April 30, 10th birthday
Josue Miranda, April 30, 16th birthday
Elliot Onn, April 30
Aliza Cramer Elias, May 1
Luna Schector, May 2
Hedva Rose Felson, May 4, 7th birthday
Sagar Pilania, May 4
Ben Rose, May 4
Adene Sacks, May 4
Maya Berman, May 5, 3rd birthday
Sam Haber, May 5
Raizel Amidah Mahgel-Friedman, May 5, 10th birthday
Irit Wiseman, May 6, 14th birthday
Claire Fenton, May 7
Yonatan Cohen, May 8
Norman Winer, May 8
Viola Sofia Katz, May 9, 5th birthday
Marilyn Benson, May 10
Daniel Magid, May 10
Josh Kirsch, May 11
Marvin Engel, May 12
Daniel Hoffman, May 12
Bathea James, May 13
Ariella Davis, May 14, 3rd birthday
Shai Krantz, May 14, 12th birthday
Dorit Resnikoff, May 14
Elan Weinstock, May 15
Jacob Cohen, May 16
Ben Zeitlin, May 16
Guy Biton-Harel, May 17
Amital Kam, May 20, 2nd birthday
Dror Neumeier, May 21, 13th birthday
Aaron Marcus, May 22
Hodi Weathersby, May 23, 8th birthday
Ayelet Jelen, May 24, 3rd birthday
Miriam Barrere, May 25
Adam Rosenzweig, May 27
Meital Singer, May 28



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

DAY CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Anonymous

GAN SHALOM GENERAL FUND

Malcolm Feeley & Rivka Amado

Terry & Olga Gordon: Mazal tov to Rachel & Jacob Heitler, and grandparents Leslie Valas & Alan Finkelstein on the birth of a baby boy

Alison Jordan: in honor of the Heitler family on the birth of new baby boy

Jewish Community Federation - JRS

Joshua Ladon & Yael Krieger

Raphael & Jeanette Rosen

Ory & Tamar Sandel: in honor of the fourth anniversary of Gaby's bat mitzvah and her imminent departure for a semester of learning in Jerusalem, Israel

GAN SHALOM SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Paul & SerachBracha Albert: in honor of Marvin Yudenfreund on his 75th birthday

Anonymous

Jonathan Astmann & Beth Oelberger Astmann

Debra Bogaards: in honor of Ory Sandel's birthday

Benjamin Buettner & Carly Strouse

R. Yonatan Cohen & Frayda Gonshor Cohen

Robi & Miriam Cohen: in honor of Am-arya Shir Cohen

Selma & Eli Cohen

Jim & Carol Cunradi: in memory of Adam Brelow's grandmother, Ruth Brelow Jacobson, z"l

Benjamin & Sara Darmoni

Mickey & Vanessa Davis

Brian Edquist & Brianna Coffino

Shulamit Wise Fairman: as part of Tali Altman's family— so grateful for the care and creativity and guidance she's experiencing in this growthful environment!

Ben Feldman & Jenna Lewis

Joshua & Claire Fenton

Matan Gilbert

Nathan & Renana Goldstein

Jacob & Rachel Heitler

Dov Jelen & Cari Rosner Jelen

Alison Jordan

Jeffrey Kasowitz & Adina Allen

Wendy Kenin

Zvika & Ayelet Krieger

Lenny Kristal & Denise Resnikoff: in celebration of the birth of baby boy Heitler

Natan & Lili Kuchar

Joshua Ladon & Yael Krieger: in honor of Ari and Lissy's Engagement!

Judith Lev: in honor of Ory Sandel's birthday

Raymond Lifchez

Laura Lipman

Deborah Lopez: in honor of Ory Sandel's birthday

Joel & Abigail Maimon

Ariel Mayse & Adina Polen

Faith Meltzer: in honor of Ory Sandel's birthday

John Ebel-Davies & Zephira Derblich-Milea

Robyn Miller

Raphael Rosen & Jeanette Wickelgren

Ofer Morag & Erin Rosenblatt

Susan Rosner

Ory & Tamar Sandel

Sara Sandel: in honor of Ory Sandel's birthday

Batya Schick

Daniel Schiffrin & Abby Friedman

Eliyahu Sills & Rachel Valfer

Ann Silver: In honor of Cari, Dov, Yaffa and Ayelet Jelen.

Gabriel Sinkin & Katharine Cryan

Roger Studley & Chai Levy

M. Victoria Sutton & Adam Brelow

Leslie Valas & Alan Finkelstein

Claudia Valas: In honor of Orly and Maya Heitler

Elly Valas

GENERAL FUND

Fran Alexander: in loving memory of Ernest Alexander and Arthur Alexander

Doreen Alper & Bob Klein: in honor of Marvin Yudenfreund's 75th birthday

Noah & Hope Alper: in memory of Noah's beloved father, David Alper

Anonymous

Anonymous: in honor of the bar mitzvah of Ariel Spagnolo

Bernard Backer: for Tzedaka/maaser

Miriam Barrere

Marilyn Benson: in memory of my father, Martin S Kludjian; with gratitude to Cynthia Scheinberg and R. Eliahu Klein for their gift of furniture and to Muni Schweig for his muscle power in helping me move it

Aaron Blumenfeld: for Yizkor

Robert & Barbara Budnitz: honoring Nae Golomb, seamstress extraordinaire, for her help

Susanne DeWitt: in memory of my mother Clara Kalter's yahrzeit

Jane Falk: in honor of R. SaraLeya Schley on the birth of a granddaughter, Hannah bat Akiva & Jennifer (Hazel Ann); in honor of Ory & Tamar Sandel on the birth of their son Erez Leor Chayim; in memory of Desmid Lyon's father, Gilbert Bendix

Malcolm Feeley & Rivka Amado: in memory of Michael Fuss

Alan Finkelstein & Leslie Valas: in honor of the birth of our grandson Emmett Elisha Heitler; in honor of the engagement of Ari & Lissy Isaacson; in memory of Lee Valas & Harry Valas

Kaye Fichman: in honor of Tu B'Shevat

David Finn & Andrea Altschuler: in memory of Jack Schaps

Hilik & Vered Frank

Shira Freehling

Sam & Rose Ginsburg: in memory of Michael Wankum

Terry & Olga Gordon: in honor of Marvin Yudenfreund on his 75th birthday; in memory of Victor Gordon, beloved father of Terry Gordon; mazal tov to Rachel & Jacob Heitler, and grandparents Leslie Valas & Alan Finkelstein on the birth of a baby boy

Avrum Gratch

Ben Greenfield & Abby DeNicasio: in honor of our friend Judith Bloom

Noah & Nava Greenfield: Thank you for hosting us for Shabbat 2/25!

Michael Greenwald & Ronna Bach

Jacob & Rena Harari

Ezra & Toby Hendon: in memory of Harold Winer; in memory of Yaacov Hendon

David & Hanna Hindawi: in memory of Meir Hed Hindawi, beloved brother

Sam & Bathea James: in memory of Rachel Majus

Samuel Jacob Jason: for aliyah

Lev & Sarah Jasper: for yizkor, in the loving memory of Edith Carrol; in gratitude to the shul

Gary and Ilene Katz: in memory of R. Cohen's grandfather Meir Halwani (Meir ben Eliyahu u'Miriam)

Leonard Kristal & Denise Resnikoff: In honor of Jonah Markowitz's birthday, with love!

Avi Langer

The Kulak Family: Thank you so much for your warm hospitality over shabbat. It was a pleasure to experience your community.

Amalya Lehmann: with thanks to Maharat Victoria Sutton

Daniel Lewis: matzah fund

Donald Light & Linda Diamond: in memory of Larry Schwimmer; in memory of Michael Schwimmer; in memory of Richard Diamond

Kennard & Annetta Lipman: in memory of my beloved mother, Cora Belle Bateman Gunter

Allen Mayer

Ariel Mayse & Adina Polen: in honor of Leslie Valas

Robin Mencher: thank you for all the care and support from R. Cohen and the CBI community sent my way this past month

Edward & Phyllis Miller: in honor of grandparents Susan and Mark Schickman and parents Joshua & Rivkie Schickman on the birth of a daughter; for a complete recovery for Bernice Bradley; in honor of Ari Finkelstein and Lissy Isaacson's engagement; in honor of Isaiah Bamberger's bar mitzvah; in honor of Mimi Weisel & Paul Hamburg on the birth of a grandson to Michael Shefrin & Shayna Reid; in honor of a baby boy to Rachel & Jacob Heitler; in honor of the special birthday of Marv Yudenfreund; in memory of Chani Goldhirsch; in

memory of Desmid Lyon's father Gilbert Bendix; in memory of Michael Hecht; in memory of William Miller; in memory of Yetta Miller; in honor of the birth of Aviv Lily Alper; in honor of the wedding in Mexico of Hillel Kipnis & Sarit Toltzis Gregg & Ruth Morris
Ben Rose & Rebecca Landes
Deborah Pearl: in memory of Emanuel Hillel Pearl, beloved father
Mordecai & Rena Rosen: in honor of grandparents Susan and Mark Schickman and parents Joshua & Rivkie Schickman on the birth of a daughter; in memory of Jack Schaps, beloved father of Lauren Greenberg
Mark & Susan Schickman: in memory of Desmid Lyon's father; mazal tov to Dorielle Parker & Josh Fleet; mazal tov to the Heitler and Valas-Finkelstein families
Elliot Schorr: for the Shlichot Program
Muni & Tania Schweig
Steven & Marilyn Shnider
Henry & Violette Sibony: in memory of my beloved sister Yvonne Sadane (Mazal bat Simha)

Susan Heller Somerville: in honor of the birth of a second great grandchild to Lois & Joe Wolf

David Spieler & Rachel Schorr: in honor of Purim and David Spieler's birthday; in honor of Jane Turbiner's birthday and amazing Chinese cooking skills; in honor of Laura Lipman's retirement, have fun! in honor of Shoshana Katler's bat mitzvah and the Fink/Katler family; in honor of the birth of a baby boy, Emmett, to Jacob & Rachel Heitler; in honor of the birth of a baby girl, Hadar, to Leah Kahn and Darrell Cohn

Robert & Naomi Stamper: in memory of our beloved parents, Maurice Stamper, Lillian Belson and Irving Belson on their yahrzeits; in honor of Marvin Yudenfreund's 75th birthday

Jeff & Doreet Stein: in memory of Clara Stein

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Sheldon & Marti Zedeck: in memory of our parents Judith & Hyman Zedeck, and Minna and Theodore Rosen

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Jim & Carol Cunradi: in honor of Irene and Joel Resnikoff; in honor of Peter Dale Scott's 89th birthday

Benjamin & Sara Darmoni: to thank the Rabbi for saying Kaddish for my mother
Estie Hudes: in memory of Gilbert (Gert) Bendix, beloved father of Desmid Lyon; mazal tov to Hope & Noah Alper on the birth of their granddaughter, Aviv Lily Alper

Naomi Igra

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Rabbi Stuart & Victoria Kelman

Alan & Elissa Kittner: on the yahrzeit of Al Kittner, Alan's grandfather

Dennis & Marilyn Levi: for comfort & welcome following the passing of Barry Levi

Desmid Lyon: Thank you for the sympathy and support of the community, especially Maharat Victoria Sutton and Rabbi Yonatan Cohen, during the recent loss of my father, Gilbert Guideon "Gert" Bendix

Linda Marcus

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James Mitrani: for tzedakah

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Rosenthal: in honor of Marv Yudenfreund's 75th birthday! Mazel tov!

Marc Roth: for the Homeless Shelter Fund

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Peter Dale Scott & Ronna Kabatznick: in honor of Albert Maggid's 90th birthday; in memory of Gilbert (Gert) Bendix, z'l, father of Desmid Lyon; in memory of Marian Dale Scott & Frank Scott

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