

SHOFAR



Monthly Newsletter of the Monterey Peninsula Jewish Community
www.carmelbethisrael.org



Havdalah on the Beach August 18

Do you enjoy singing folk songs with Cantor Alisa Fineman? Is anything better than sitting around a campfire, enjoying s'mores as you watch the sun setting into the ocean? If this sounds like a great way to end your Sabbath then join us on Saturday evening, August 18th. Look for Rabbi Greenbaum on the beach below 13th and Scenic Drive. He will bring a propane fire pit for a relaxing Havdalah on Carmel Beach. We begin at 7:00 p.m. but you can come early and enjoy a picnic dinner before our Havdalah service. Bring warm clothes, beach toys, and musical instruments. This is a great event for the entire family and even the family dog!

In This Issue:

From the Rabbi	2
High Holidays	4 & 5
Todah Rabah	8
CBI Calendar	13
Religious School	14



Summer Fun at the Theater Continues....

For those who joined us last month, we enjoyed the play "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time." With a strong message and an excellent performance, it left a lasting impression on all who attended. This month, on August 11 we will go to another show at the Golden Bough Theater, "Million Dollar Quartet." Our discount tickets are \$35 for adults and \$28 for seniors. Teachers and military tickets are \$16. On the afternoon of August 26 we will enjoy Disney's Little Mermaid at the Outdoor Forest Theater. Prices for that show are \$29 for adults, \$26 for seniors, \$16 for teachers and military, \$11.50 for teens and only \$8 for children. Look for details about the October 6th show in future bulletins. Please do not wait until the last moment to call the office as the theaters require us to make our group reservations well in advance

SHA-BARK
SHALOM



You and your dogs are welcome for
an abbreviated Shabbat service
Followed by an optional walk

Saturday, August 11 at 10:30

Rabbi Greenbaum will say a special
blessing for all the dogs.

From the Rabbi's Desk...



The middle of the month of August is also the start of the Hebrew month Elul. This year Elul begins on August 12. With the start of Elul one traditionally begins to prepare for the High Holy Days. Judaism teaches that one must be in the right frame of mind to enter into the difficult task of repentance. Most Rabbis, however begin preparing for these Holy Days long before the start of Elul. With sermons to write and services to organize, many of my colleagues follow my practice of starting those sermons and reviewing the Mahzor (High Holy Day Prayerbook) in July.

Educators in the synagogue setting are busy preparing for the start of the religious and Hebrew schools. Louise has been working on our new school year since before the end of our last school day. Rarely have I been so excited about the start of another religious school year. A team of CBI members, both parents and students, have worked countless hours to rebuild our teen study program. Together we have restructured our 8-12 grade program. The group has selected the name "Aleynu" which means "It is upon us" or "It is our responsibility."

Aleynu participants will have a variety of opportunities to study and develop their Jewish identity. One branch of Aleynu will be our Madrichim program, students serving as teacher's assistants in our Sunday and Hebrew school program. In a second component, one based on a trimester system (3 different blocks each 5 sessions long), students will gather on Wednesday evenings for a dinner followed by a "core" class, a short break and a more cultural class. A group of teens and parents are working to establish what these core classes and cultural programs might include. With the students helping set the curriculum, I cannot yet share what has been selected as their potential curriculum. I have heard various ideas

suggested including for the core classes: "Jews and Tattoos," "Tikkun Olam," "Environmentalism," "Jewish Mysticism," "A Jewish view of Current Events," "Comparative Religion or Comparative Judaism" and other ideas. Ideas for the cultural classes that have been shared with me include: Jewish cooking at home or in college, Jewish Graffiti, Creating a Peace Mural, and sharing our values on video.

Part of my excitement is that the students themselves will help guide what they will be learning. Already a handful of potential teachers have offered their talents in guiding the courses the students might select. Imagine having 5 sessions to help a student understand and express their values in their own video. One CBI member hopes the students will elect to work together to create an art mural that will be placed on part of the playground fence.

Students will also have an opportunity to develop their leadership skills creating a 'pop-up event' for their classmates. Maybe they will organize a Shabbat dinner gathering or a social action program or some type of youth group party?

Finally, participating in Aleynu will allow the students to enjoy unique Jewish trips depending on their grade level. This school year the 8-9 graders will have a chance to enjoy a San Francisco day trip. The older 10-12 grade students can go to the Religious Action Center 4 day L'Taken program in Washington DC in March.

I look forward to sharing with you how our Aleynu Teen program evolves. It will begin just as we enter the end of our Holy Day season. I pray both the High Holy Days and the new Aleynu program bring fulfillment to many generations within the CBI family. Amen.





From our President
*Todd Hornik, President,
Board of Trustees*

Well, it's finally here...my last President's letter. Soon a lovely picture of Cara will be in place and I can quietly slip into anonymity here at CBI.

But before I do, I want to invite you all to **CBI's Annual Meeting on August 19th** at 5 pm. There will be food and drink (naturally) but there will be important issues to discuss as well. Hopefully you all read the recent eblast, but in case you missed it, we'll need representatives from 10% of our membership households to conduct official business, elect next year's slate of Officers and discuss the by-law amendments proposed. Any adult family member can represent their household so long as CBI has received your pledge commitment letter that was sent out in June. We will have forms available for those who have mislaid their paperwork. To be clear – payments do not need to have been made but we do need pledge commitments from members to be counted towards the quorum. Detailed information regarding the agenda, the budget, the slate of officers or any other topic can be obtained by calling the office. Thank you in advance for your continued support of CBI. It's been a pleasure and an honor.

Todd

*Thank
you
Todd*

Distinguished Women: Speakers Series



Designing to Remember

*Thursday, August 9th
7:00 PM*

Darcie Fohrman's talk will focus on the issues around developing and designing Holocaust

exhibitions for three museums over three decades. These profound experiences influenced her approach to interpreting difficult contemporary issues and deepened her commitment to creating meaningful exhibitions that move visitors and inspire empathy, both critical aspects for building community.

Darcie's award winning exhibitions include, "Remember the Children: Daniel's Story," United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC; "COURAGE: The Carolina Story That Changed America," Levine Museum of the New South,

Charlotte, North Carolina; "QUESTION," Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University; "Above & Below: Stories from the San Francisco Bay," Oakland Museum of California; and "Revealing Bodies," Exploratorium, San Francisco.

The event is free and will include light refreshments.



High Holiday Highlights

This year Rosh HaShanah begins with our evening service on Sunday September 9 at 7:00 pm. The next morning, Monday, September 10, we start with a children's service in the main sanctuary at 9:30 am followed by our morning service at 10:30 am. That afternoon we gather at 4:00 pm on Carmel Beach below 13th for our Tashlich observance. Second day Rosh HaShanah services are on Tuesday, September 11, starting at 10:30 am. Members of Temple Beth El of Salinas will join us for second day services. Cantor Margaret Bruner and Student Rabbi Elana Nemitoff, who are leading services for Beth El, will assist in leading those services with Rabbi Greenbaum and Cantor Alisa Fineman in our sanctuary. Following our second day services we will again enjoy a dairy potluck lunch. Please bring something to share when you come to services the second day of Rosh HaShanah.

On Sunday, September 16 we will gather at 3:30 pm at Mission Memorial Cemetery at our Gan HaZikaron for a memorial service. Our cemetery is located in Seaside inside the Mission Memorial Cemetery at the end of Ord Grove Drive.

Kol Nidre services begin Tuesday evening, September 18 at 7:00 pm. Our main morning Yom Kippur service begins Wednesday at 10:00 am followed by our Children's service at 1:15 pm. Starting at 2:00 everyone is encouraged to join an open discussion study session. The afternoon service begins at 3:00 pm, the Yizkor service at approximately 4:45 pm and a closing service beginning at approximately 5:30 pm. **NO TICKETS are needed** for our Holy Day services. Military personnel, other guests, and those under 21 years of age are all welcome. Donations to help defray holy day costs including additional security are always appreciated. Our light community break the fast will begin after the final community Shofar blast (bring your shofars).

Once again we have hired parking attendants for our evening services. If you are willing to come early for our morning services and assist in directing parking below the synagogue, please call our Administrator Julie Chase at 624-2015. If you are a member of CBI and will be traveling during the Holy Day season we are happy to assist you in getting tickets at other Reform congregations across the country. We wish you an early L'Shanah Tovah, Happy New Year.

Selichot Study and Worship

Observance of the Jewish New Year begins with Slichot Services held late on the Saturday night preceding Rosh Hashanah or 8 days before when Erev Rosh HaShanah falls on a Sunday like this year. The mood of the service is reflective, and like the entire month of Elul, is used to set a certain "kavanah" or intention with which to commence the High Holy Days.

Join us Saturday, September 1 beginning at 7:30 pm as we gather below our building around our little fire pit which will be in the middle of our basketball court. Cantor Alisa will lead us in singing and teach us some of the songs and melodies that are unique to the High Holy Day season. Then we will move inside and enjoy a study session with Rabbi Greenbaum as we examine some of the special features of our new Holy Day Mahzor, the prayer book we use for Rosh HaShanah.

Our Selichot observance continues with a Service in our sanctuary starting at approximately 10:00 pm. Join us as we change our Torah mantles and enter the High Holy Day period. We will end the service with the sounding of the shofar. Feel free to bring a shofar and join in the final blast of the Selichot service. Please share with us in this annual evening of prayer and study. By taking your place in our congregational family, you will be enriched and strengthened as you enrich and strengthen us with your presence.



HIGH HOLY DAYS SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Rabbi Bruce D. Greenbaum and Cantor Alisa Fineman

SLICHOT

Saturday, September 1st

7:30 p.m. Study Sessions

10:00 p.m. Service

ROSH HASHANAH

Sunday, September 9th

7:00 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah

Monday, September 10th

9:30 a.m. Children's Service

10:30 a.m. Morning Service

4:00 p.m. Tashlich on Carmel

Beach below 13th

Tuesday, September 11th

10:30 a.m. Second Day Service

at CBI with our friends from
Temple Beth El

A vegetarian/dairy potluck
lunch will follow our second
day service.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, September 16th

3:30 p.m. Memorial Service at

Mission Memorial Park,
1915 Ord Grove Avenue,
Seaside

YOM KIPPUR

Tuesday, September 18th

7:00 p.m. Kol Nidre Service

Wednesday, September 19th

10:00 a.m. Morning Service

1:15 p.m. Children's Service

2:00 p.m. Holy Day Discussions

3:00 p.m. Afternoon Service

*4:45 p.m. Yizkor Service

*5:30 p.m. Closing Neilah
Service

*6:30 p.m. Light Nosh

Community Break-the-Fast
(bring a dessert to share!)

*Times are approximate on Yom
Kippur afternoon

SUKKAH BUILDING PARTY

Sunday, September 23rd

12:00-2:00 p.m. Sukkah Building

SIMCHAH TORAH SERVICES

Sunday, September 30

11:00 a.m. Service



Lunch with the Rabbi

Join Rabbi Greenbaum this month on **August 9** at our new location Baja Cantina when he will lead a discussion on modern Jewish responses to United States policies. Issues to be addressed with include: should the US build a wall on its Southern border? Since Israel built a security wall/fence, should we support one on our border with Mexico? What do our Jewish scriptures teach us about Roe v. Wade? Is abortion ever allowed in Jewish law? Should Jews support Gay marriage? Is there anything about Health Care in the bible or the Talmud? These major topics all will be addressed during this lunch. Come prepared to RESPECTFULLY discuss, question and debate these issues. Lunch costs only \$20. Call the CBI office at 624-2015 to RSVP.

Shabark Shalom - August 11

No, that's not a typo. Bring your **dogs** for an abbreviated Shabbat morning gathering which will be held behind the synagogue **August 11**. We will gather at 10:30 and begin with some morning Sabbath prayers. In place of a Torah reading we will do a blessing of our pets. Those who want can bring snacks to share after the short service (both for people and pets!). Bring a leash if you want to join us for a nice walk with the dogs to complete our Shabbat Shabark observance.



**Thinking about
honoring a loved one
or special occasion?**

Consider a plaque at CBI

A leaf on our Tree of Life

\$180

A Yartzeit Plaque in our sanctuary

\$360.00

Visual Tefillah

Join us Friday night, **August 17** when we will use for only the second time our new visual Tefillah format for our 7:30 PM service. Imagine singing, reading and participating in the service without having to hold a prayer book or find the right page. Instead join Rabbi Greenbaum and Cantor Fineman as the words printed over meaningful visual images appear on a large screen on the side of the pulpit. The vast majority who attended Alisa's installation service were overwhelmingly pleased with the visual Tefillah format. If you are able to attend that evening we would love your feedback about this prayer experience at CBI.



CBI Book Club

August 14, 1:30 PM, home of Karen Wiskoff (wiskoff@aol.com). Book: TELEX FROM CUBA by Rachel Kushner

NOTE: There will be no September Book Club because of the High Holidays; but the October book is long, so it might help to start reading early in September.

October 9, 1:30 PM, home of Suellen Rubin (suellenrubin@hotmail.com). Book: HERE I AM by Jonathan Safran Foer.

November 13, 1:30 PM, location to be determined. MISS BURMA by Charmaine Craig. **PLEASE LET KAREN WISKOFF KNOW IF YOU ARE WILLING TO HOST THIS MEETING.**



Pasta with the Pastors

CBI is one of many local religious communities that house and support the I-HELP program that welcomes and feeds homeless men. Join hundreds of community supporters as together we raise funds to assist the Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program. This annual dinner is so named because many of our clergy leaders (our rabbi included) help serve attendees the delicious spaghetti meal.

This year's dinner will be held Thursday, **August 30 from 4:30-6:30 PM** at the San Carlos Cathedral Hall located at 500 Church Street in Monterey. Suggested donations for this all-you-can-eat pasta dinner is \$20 per adult, \$10 for children under Bar/Bat Mitzvah age. Reserve your tickets by calling Rabbi Greenbaum at the CBI office, 624-2015. Of course, walk-ins are also welcome. Who knows, Rabbi Greenbaum just might be your server that evening!

Worship Committee

While members of the worship committee only meet every few months, together with Rabbi Greenbaum and Cantor Fineman they help plan the High Holy Days, the Passover Seder and other special religious activities for Congregation Beth Israel. This important committee helped select both our Shabbat and High Holy Day prayer books. They offer helpful suggestions to our clergy as how to innovate and develop our services. If you are interesting in joining this committee chaired by Sylvia Krimsley, consider joining their next meeting which will be held at CBI on Wednesday, **August 22 at 7:30 PM.**



**Best Years
Visit to the
Monterey**

Museum of Art

Join us **Thursday, August 23 at 2:00** for our own Best Years private guided tour at the Monterey Museum of Art. Located at 559 Pacific Street, across from historic Colton Hall in Old Monterey, the Museum features galleries devoted to exhibitions of American and early California painting, photography and contemporary art. We will enjoy an approximately 1 hour tour before we snack on delicious ice cream at Revival on Alvarado Street. The afternoon is free as the expenses will be paid for by our CB Senior Endowment Fund. To RSVP to join our museum tour, call the CBI office at 624-2015. Also, let us know if you need a ride.

A Message from Your Caring Committee



The Caring Committee is here to serve you. Many of your fellow congregants have volunteered to help after surgery or illness by providing meals or transportation, or just visits and friendship. Because of HIPPA laws which protect your privacy only the person in need or their representative can request help. When you want the help of the Caring Committee call the Rabbi or office staff. This is the only way we will know of your need.

Should you be mourning we can help by providing a minyan, food, or other services. But again, you must let us know.

Join us for the Annual Meeting

CBI's Annual Meeting will be held on August 19th at 5 pm. We'll need representatives from 10% of our membership to conduct official business, elect next year's slate of Officers and discuss the proposed by-law amendments. Any adult family member in good standing can vote so long as CBI has received your 2018/2019 pledge commitment letter.



Todah Rabah

June 2018

Building Donation

Daniel & Beth Cort
Todd Hornik & Donna Shore
David & Ila Kleinman
Ronald & Darcie Kroll
Laela Leavy
Norman Plotkin
Lawrence & Ruth Rosen
Jim & Natalie Sammet
Ellen Saxby
Stanley Weiss
Mindy Western
Edward & Mona Zander

David Waldman Religious School Scholarship Fund

Clark Miller & Cara Lieb

Endowment Fund

Todd Hornik & Donna Shore
Ronald & Darcie Kroll
Laela Leavy
Aaron & Maureen Rosenblatt
Ellen Saxby
Mindy Western
Edward & Mona Zander
Bee Epstein-Shepherd in memory of Zad Leavy
Elaine Gallup Conner & Robert Conner
Lawrence & Ruth Rosen

General Donations

Marshal & Angelica Blatt
Dr. Alex & Galena Bordetsky in memory of
Alex's mother Freda Bordetsky
Richard Zucker in memory of Ester Zucker
Ellyn Gelson in honor of birthdays and
anniversaries in May
Ellyn Gelson in honor of birthdays and
anniversaries in June
Richard & Margaret Harrit
Victor & Sylvia Krimsley in memory of Les Bard
Rosemary Lande in honor of Amit Brian Coe and

in memory of Les Bard and Zad Leavy
Michael & Susan Newton
Donald & Marcia Pompan in memory of Les Bard
Israel Pren in memory of his mother Batya Pren
Rabbi Jeffrey Schulman & Susan Alnes in memory
of Stephen Alnes, Les Bard, and Zad Leavy and
in honor of Alisa Fineman's Ordination
Gary & Judy Simon in memory of Judy's mother

Cantorial Fund

Bill Pardue & Barbara Mitchell in memory of Zad Leavy
Donald & Marcia Pompan Mazel Tov Cantor
Alisa Fineman
Richard Rosen & Susan Shapiro-Rosen in honor of
Alisa Fineman

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Barry R. Harrow

July 2018

Building Donation

Marvin Silverman
Malina Breaux
Norman & Diana B. Jacobson
Richard Klein & Kaete Salomon
Michael & Debora Waxer in blessed memory of
Peter Hornik

David Waldman Religious School Scholarship Fund

Michael & Debora Waxer in honor of David
Kolinsky's Torah Drosh
Lester & Wendy Tockerman in memory of Peter
Hornik

Endowment Fund

Norman & Diana B. Jacobson
Rabbi Bruce & Susan Greenbaum

Eiten Biblarz Campership Fund

Laila & Shaye Remba in honor of Oscar Biblarz
80th birthday

General Donations

David & Lois Epel in memory of Zad Leavy and
Peter Hornik
Ellyn Gelson in honor of July Birthdays &

Anniversaries

Melvin F. & Susan N. Gorelick in memory of
Sarah Froms
Rabbi Bruce & Susan Greenbaum
Ruth S. Hartmann in memory of Zad Leavy
David & Xochitl Kolinsky
Victor & Sylvia Krimsley in loving memory of
Sam Weiner Jr.
Lawrence & Ruth Rosen in memory of Sam
Klein

Carmel Jewish Film Festival

City of Monterey
Rabbi Bruce & Susan Greenbaum

Jewish Food Festival

Michael & Lori Addison
Hersh & Lizbeth Davis
Bobbi & David Ehrenpreis
Victor & Rena Feuerstein
Rich Gerber
Rabbi Bruce & Susan Greenbaum
Norman & Diana B. Jacobson
Ken & Shelley Kroopf
Mrs. Laela Leavy
Howard Messinger & Leta McCarty Messinger
Clark Miller & Cara Lieb
Robert Moskowitz and Jeanette Stern
Steve & Barbara Neil
Daniel & Louise Riddell-Kaufman
Diana Rosenthal
Corrina Joan Rucka
Jim & Natalie Sammet
Andrew & Wendy Schmidt
Susan Schwartz
Mr. Marvin Silverman
Edward & Mona Zander

Social Action Donation

David Sabih & Anna Swartley in honor of Todd
& Vena Waldeman

Cantorial Fund

Victor & Rena Feuerstein in loving memory of
Cecil Goldhamer, in honor of Alisa's
Ordination and Vic and Rena's anniversary
Mitchel & Deborah Winick in memory of Zad
Leavy

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Marsha & Brian Kelly in honor of Steve Packer
and Rabbi Greenbaum
Michael & Debora Waxer in blessed memory of
Zad Leavy



Thank You to Our Oneg Hosts

**We are grateful to the
following people who
helped make our July and
August Onegs a beautiful experience:**

July 20: Anonymous Host(s) in Memory of
Esther Zucker
Also Hosting - Seth & Naomi Pollack

July 27: The Jewish Film Festival Committee in
honor of this year's JFF Volunteers!

August 2: This date available for you to host!
Please call the CBI office.

August 10: Alan & Sandra Goldman in honor of
Alisa Fineman's Ordination, Lauren Goldman's
teaching award and Rabbi Bruce

August 17: This date available for you to host!
Please call the CBI office.

August 24: This date available for you to host!
Please call the CBI office.

August 31: This date available for you to host!
Please call the CBI office.

Please help keep this wonderful tradition alive
by hosting an Oneg in memory of a loved one or
in honor of a special person or life cycle event.
Call the CBI office to schedule this simple yet
meaningful mitzvah.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jaime Shoemaker	1	Yvonne Ascher	15
Victor Feuerstein	3	Jill Sleeper	17
Gordon Freedman	3	Galena Bordetsky	18
Dr. Astrid Holberg	3	Selina Glater	19
Shala Kashfi	3	Ben Kaatz	21
Bruce Neben	5	Stephen L. Ryter	21
Norman Plotkin	6	Debra Crawford-Annis	22
Herbert Stern	7	Barbara Lipman	23
Bari Tolliver	8	Sylvia Krimsley	26
Miriam Lyons	9	Grant Rosen	26
Aaron Rosenblatt	9	Ze'ev Davis	27
Stanley Weiss	9	Ryan Dicus	28
Mindy Western	10	Scott Klein	28
Leonid Modorsky	13	Talia Charlotte Awerbuck	29
Victor Krimsley	14	Marlene Maier	30

Happy Anniversary

Gordon & Amanda Freedman	1
Andrea & Noel Carr	4
Rabbi Bruce & Susan Greenbaum	4
Ronald & Darcie Kroll	4
Alan & Barbara Bienenfeld	5
David & Laurie Benjamin	6
Jaime & Jon Shoemaker	6
Robert & Raya Hoskinson	7
Ilana & Ari Entin	8
Michael & Debora Waxer	11
Nick & Aline Harris	15
Grant & Melanie Rosen	15
Norman & Meryll Carr	20
Michael & Lori Addison	26
Marsha & Brian Kelly	27
Jim Gumberg & Nina Patane	31
Carlos Ramirez & Lisa Kroopf	31
Lawrence & Ruth Rosen	31



Family News

Our sincere condolences on the passing of Peter Hornik, beloved father of Todd. May his memory be a blessing to us all.

Celebrate with us
the Life of Zad Leavy, 1930-2018
Sunday, August 5, 2018, at 1:30 PM
Congregation Beth Israel, 5716 Carmel Valley Road

Our Congregation strives to offer love and support to fellow congregants in times of joy and celebration, as well as in times of trouble and sorrow. One of the ways we do this is to let the Congregation know your news. Please let us know if there is a simcha you wish to share (or know someone else's that they are willing to share), or a wish of encouragement or condolence that can be shared. You can send this information to shalomcbi@aol.com to be included in the Shofar.

Torah Connections:

Vol. 124 August 2018, 5778

Michael Waxer

The most unusual characteristic of the Torah

Many casual readers of the Torah might think it is a story of the early Jewish people. And many more think it is a poorly written history, filled with errors and archaic rules, which is not really relevant to us today, even though there are some occasional brilliant passages. Upon closer examination, of course, we find some incredible **objectivity**.

"In a beginning God created the heavens and the earth." [Genesis 1:1].

The Torah starts with **all of creation**, and specifically not with the birth of the Jews or the Jewish nation. In fact, the first 20 generations records a lineage of births and deaths and other key stories which tell us aspects of human 'nature', but there are no Jews yet.

Moses, who was supposed to be killed by the midwives as a decree from Pharaoh that all Israelite baby boys are to be murdered, is saved from this prescribed death. Who saves him? None other than Pharaoh's daughter! So we learn that the Egyptians are not all evil, and some Egyptians are the heroes of the story.

Yet another example is when God speaks to a non-Jewish sorcerer, Balaam. In this story in the book of Numbers, Balaam the Sorcerer is hired by a local King (Balak), to curse the Jewish people. We see from this story that God can and does speak to whomever God wants to, including non-Jews. Said another way, since God demonstrates that God is the One God for everything, of course God can speak to whomever God wants. The Torah makes that clear.

One reason why the Israelites in the Torah are so flawed may be to show that human nature allows people to make bad decisions. God, chooses some 'losers' but gives them the Torah, and it is this Torah which ultimately allows them to transform themselves into a holy nation, and to be a light unto the nations. In fact, this may be true for the

individual as well, that **through Torah study one is able to be less of a slave to physical desires and to grow spiritually.**

One of the arguments made regarding the divinity of the Torah, that each letter and each word is purposeful and has divine sparks of some type, comes from this almost embarrassing **objectivity**. It is hard to imagine that a group of people would write their 'story', by highlighting their weaknesses and mistakes. And the flaws are huge.... Perhaps the best example is when Moses is up on the mountain getting the Ten Commandments, the people build an idol, a golden calf to worship. Honestly, it would be tough to make this stuff up.

The Torah has been considered sacred for many generations, certainly amongst the Jewish people. Many different tools have been developed to study Torah, one such method is known as **PaRDeS**, an acronym, which helps a reader to read and understand the Torah that goes far beyond the literal, or *pshat*, level. Unfortunately, too many people just read the literal words, typically in a translation, and completely miss the greater meanings of this divine text.

By using the **PaRDeS** tool, one is immediately equipped with a way to understand the Torah stories that go in different directions entirely from the literal meaning. In fact, the literal meaning often makes little sense to us today, which is one reason why folks can so easily dismiss, or discard, the Torah. It would be as if you are told to fix your eyeglasses but the only tool you have is a hammer. It wouldn't be possible because you need the right tool, a very small screwdriver. So it is with Torah.

Through the sincere study of Torah, reading it as a holy text and struggling to understand it, making use of tools to be able to immerse yourself into the words and the letters.... the Torah can transform each person and lift us up spiritually. It allows us to develop our relationship with HaShem. May you be blessed in your study of this amazing and divine text, the Torah.

This article was inspired by a talk given by Dennis Prager.

If you have any comments regarding 'Torah Connections', please e-mail a note to: mtwaxer@sbcglobal.net.

Torah Connections is the sole opinion and property of the author, and it specifically does not necessarily reflect the position of Judaism, CBI, and/or the Board of Trustees.



HELP Outreach

CBI Sponsored. . . **I-HELP:**
Interfaith Homeless Emergency
Lodging Program

I-HELP for Men

July – The July 1st I-Help meal was sponsored by the Carmel Valley Rotary Club. For many years these civic minded business leaders have prepared and served an I-HELP summer meal at CBI. For dinner the men were treated to lasagna with meatballs, baked chicken, wild rice pilaf with beef and green beans. For dessert, they enjoyed strawberry cheesecake, sheet cake, cookies and fresh strawberries. The CV Rotary also provided breakfast the next morning which included fruit, yogurt, hard-boiled eggs, snack bars, milk and juice. Prior to the meal, during the opening friendship circle, the men gratefully thanked the CV Rotary club for their generosity and care. We thank the CV Rotary Club for all their work in our community and for the ongoing CBI I-HELP support.

August and September – The CBI Board of Trustees has volunteered to sponsor the August 5th meal. For September 2nd, Iris Brewster and the local chapter of Hadassah is once again sponsoring a summer meal as they have for many years. A sincere thank you to both organizations for your generosity and support of CBI's commitment to the homeless in our community.

October – SPONSOR STILL NEEDED. PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN – If your family, social or business group is interested in sponsoring the October 7th meal please respond to Matthew Schuss as noted below. This is an important mitzvah and we can't meet this monthly community need without help from the members of our congregation. Thank you. If you have any questions about I-HELP or interest in supporting the program, please contact Charlene or Matthew Schuss at cnmne3@comcast.net or call 250-7170. Thank you!



Community Shabbat Dinner -Join us on Friday, August 31

Join with us for our monthly community Shabbat dinner,

prepared by Malina Breaux and her entourage of assistants.

Savor a sense of community and food worthy of celebration.

Join us as we offer blessings for the bread and wine and sing traditional music to begin our gatherings.

Children are welcome. Evening services follow at 7:30.

Call the CBI office for reservations to enjoy our lovely community Shabbat meals. Members \$12.50 non-members \$20

A Nice Acknowledgement of our Mitzvah Day Work:





Congregation Beth Israel

August 2018

AV ~ ELUL 5778

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3  7:30PM Erev Shabbat Services with special Birthday blessings	4 9:00 AM Morning Shabbat Service 10:45 AM Shabbat Torah Study
5 5:00 PM I-Help Sponsored by the CBI Board of Trustees	6	7	8	9  12:00 Pm Lunch with Rabbi  7:00 PM Darcie Fohrman	10 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services	11 10:30 AM Shabbat Shabbark  7:30 CBI Theatre Event Million Dollar Quartet
12	13	14 6:30 PM CBI Executive Committee Mtg	15	16	17 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services	18 10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study 7:00 PM Havdalah on the Beach
19 5:00 PM – CBI Annual Meeting	20	21	22 7:30 PM Worship Committee	23 2:00 PM Best Years - Monterey Museum of Art	24 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services	25 10:30 AM Shabbat Torah Study
26 1:00-4:00 PM R/S Faculty Orientation  3:00 PM CBI Theatre Event Little Mermaid	27	28 7:15 PM CBI Board of Trustees Meeting	29	30 4:30 to 6:30 PM Pasta with the Pastors	31 6:30 PM Community Shabbat Dinner 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services with special Anniversary Blessings	1 September Selichot 9:00 AM Shabbat Morning Service 10:45 AM Shabbat Torah Study 7:30 PM – Selichot Studies 10:00 PM – Selichot Service



Mark Your Calendar! Upcoming Religious School Dates

Religious School Registration is now live! Go to:

http://www.carmelbethisrael.org/learning/school/for_registration_forms.

Mark your calendars:

August 26 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Faculty Orientation - Required for all Teachers and Madrichim

August 19 Late Fees for Registration begin

September 23 First day of Religious School for all grades

September 26 First day of Hebrew School

September 28 Last Day to submit Religious School Scholarship Applications

The Religious School operates on a budget that is primarily funded through tuition, but over 20% of the cost of running the school is subsidized by the general fund. Because CBI's general funds underwrites this significant amount of the cost of our Religious School, we maintain a sharp distinction between the tuition rates assessed for members vs. non-members. All non-members are charged an additional fee for their child's education.

Note: We will not mail out ANY forms -all information, forms and registration fees MUST be initially set up online. Your child's will not be registered until this process is completed.

If you have a question, please contact me or the CBI office at 624-2015, or Louise Riddell-Kaufman at directorLouise@aol.com.

If you have a question, please contact me or the CBI office at 624-2015.

Alyenu (It is upon us) NEW!!!

Pilot leadership program for teens in grades 8 - 12

- Wednesday evenings (approximately every other week), 6:00 - 8:00
- Core & Cultural classes & socializing over dinner
- Leadership Training to assist in creating teen generated one-time events
- Madrichim program

Participation in this educational leadership training program will look great on college applications.

Register on-line (for all but the madrichim program) through our website: Carmelbethisrael.org/learning.

Questions? Contact DirectorLouise@aol.com or RabbiBruce@aol.com.



Jewish Family Ideas August 2018

✧ Make donations a family matter. Take some of the amount you would regularly

donate and divide it among your children to set aside for donations to their own causes. Talk about the work of particular agencies that might interest your children and, at regular intervals, have them donate their money to the organizations of their choice.

✧ Book Suggestions:

How Dalia Put a Big Yellow Comforter Inside a Tiny Blue Box by Linda Heller. As Dalia explores tzedakah with her friends, she creates a tzedakah box where she can keep the money she's saving to help those in need. In the process Dalia, her friends and her little brother Yossi learn about the power and joy of giving to others. Ages 3 -7

What Zeesie Saw on Delancey Street by Elsa Okon Rael. In the early 1900's on the Lower East Side, a seven-year-old girl learns lessons of community, generosity, and courage from the Jewish immigrant population. Ages 5 - 8.

The Hungry Clothes and Other Jewish Folktales by Peninnah Schram. Here are 22 Jewish tales: tall tales, riddle stories, parables, trickster tales, mystical tales, and more, retold in a direct, informal style. Some are told with humor and all are sure to inspire conversation. Each story contains a message that resonates with Jewish values. Ages 9 - 12.



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Job Openings at CBI

Co-teacher needed for teaching 4th/ 5th grade Religious School on Sunday mornings (shared position). 9:30 - 12:00.

Youth Engagement Coordinator needed. Approximately 2 Sunday afternoons per month (12:00 - 2:00). Chaperone 2 trips during the year. Develop and chaperone activities for three age groups: 3rd - 5th graders, 6th & 7th graders, 8th - 12th graders. Teen work will include leadership development. Potentially teach a section of the teen program every other Wednesday evening.

Interested? Want to know more about our Project Based Learning curriculum? Do you know someone who would be great working with Jewish kids?

Contact Louise Riddell-Kaufman at
DirectorLouise@aol.com.



Parshiot

August 4, Ekev

T: Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25

H: Isaiah 49:14-51:3

August 11, Re'eh

T: Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17

H: Isaiah 54:11-55:5

August 18, Shoftim

T: Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9

H: Isaiah 51:12-52:12

August 25, Ki Tetze

T: Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19

H: Isaiah 54:1-10

