

SHOFAR



Monthly Newsletter of the Monterey Peninsula Jewish Community

www.carmelbethisrael.org

It's Carmel Jewish Film Festival Month!

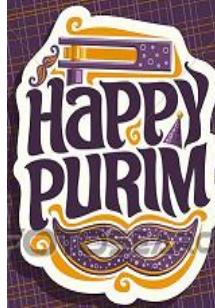
We are so excited about this year's lineup of films and programs. People often ask which films they should attend, and we have to answer, "All of them!" We screen scores of films and have to narrow the selection to only eight, so we try to appeal to the widest audience with films from several countries and a variety of genres.

We are pleased and flattered when world-renowned filmmakers like Roberta Grossman and Dani Menkin are willing to attend our Festival, and we hope you will extend a warm welcome to all our Festival guests.

Roberta also will give two exciting presentations as CBI's Scholar-in-Residence on **March 1 and March 2**. Roberta's film on March 3, *Who Will Write Our History?*, is now playing in theaters in major U. S. cities; our Festival will be your only chance to see it locally.

In an event that may never happen here again, the CJFF will premiere the film *Picture of His Life* on **March 9**. We will be the very first audience to see it. Even more amazing, the subject of the film - world-renowned photographer Amos Nachoum - will be in attendance and will answer questions along with the film's director, Dani Menkin. You shouldn't wait to buy tickets to this event!

(Continued on page 7)



Purim Celebrations March 20 - 24!

Throughout Jewish history, anti-Semitism has threatened to wipe out our existence. Each time, our ancestors have somehow managed to survive. Join us as we celebrate Jewish victory over anti-Semitism this Purim.

On Wednesday evening, **March 20** we gather together at 5:30 (Hebrew Schooll gets out early that evening) for our Fiddler on the Roof Purim Shpiel. Let the rabbi know if you want to perform in the Purim Shpiel! Join King Tevye, Queen Golda, Mordecai the Rabbi as they share with us our Megillah story. Together we will boo Tzar Haman and cheer for Rabbi Mordehai. After the Shpiel enjoy a delicious pizza dinner (\$2.00 a slice) and some tasty hamantaschen as well. All those attending are encouraged to come in costume.

Calling all adults who want to celebrate Purim with dancing, food, wine & beer, and live music: Don't miss the Purim Party on **March 23**, from 7:00-10:00 at CBI! Snack on delicious appetizers and dance to the music of Andrea's Fault while bidding on Silent Auction items. Costumes are encouraged, but optional. Cost is \$54 per person.

On Sunday, **March 24** we head over to Salinas and join our Temple Beth El friends for our Religious school morning and Purim carnival celebration in their social hall. Our students will join their religious school at 9:30 to begin the morning followed by the Purim Carnival from 10:45-12:30. Volunteers are needed at Temple Beth El from 9:30-10:45 for set up; 10:45-12:30:00 to help run the carnival booths and serve lunch. Those who stay later to help with clean up receive extra mitzvah points! Call Louise Riddell-Kaufman or the CBI office to volunteer.

From the Rabbi's Desk...

We live in a time when our lives seem filled with difficult decision making. When our government shut down and approximately 800,000 workers went for a month without pay we read about people having to decide between purchasing medication and paying for food and rent. While hopefully most of us do not have to make such challenging choices, still we struggle with setting priorities.

As tax season approaches and I begin organizing all the information for the tax forms, one of the things I do is review all the donations I made this past year. While some of those donations are annual gifts (support of CBI, Hadassah, Rotary, and Magen David Adom) others were gifts made for the first time in place of other donations. This year I chose to give to the Wheelchair Foundation but not to the Heart Association. I consider where I feel my donations will do the most good and where my money might make the greatest difference. These are tough decisions that can impact on people's lives.

Not all our challenging choices are about spending our money. Where we give of our time is equally as important. How challenging it is for our children to find time for their Hebrew studies when they also have sports and drama and music commitments. While we run an excellent religious and Hebrew studies program, it does not always fit into overly crowded schedules. We hope that the added cultural activities like singing with Cantor Alisa and cooking delicious Jewish foods will help our children want to make religious school a priority, but that is not always the case. My challenge is convincing our families to make sure Jewish education is near the top of their list!

I do not want to imply that other activities are not important in our lives. At times I have contemplated missing Shabbat evening services to attend a special event at the Sunset Center. While I have not made that choice, being the rabbi being a deciding factor, I certainly understand how modern



day life can pull us away from our Jewish practices. But somehow I feel we must make Jewish education a priority for our children. Even if as adults we choose not to be overly active in the congregation, at least we were given a strong connection to our Jewish heritage. We know what we are setting aside for other priorities. If we don't give this foundation to our children, they will never have any chance to create a strong connection to their Jewish identity.

Throughout March our Jewish Film Festival will offer 9 different events filled with great films, special speakers and some wonderful receptions. Last year almost half of our events were sold out. I was both thrilled that so many non-members took advantage of what we are offering, and saddened that so many CBI members chose not to participate in any of the movies or programs.

On August 25 this summer we will host our 32nd annual Jewish Food Festival. Last year we struggled to get volunteers to serve on the Food festival committee or work the week of the festival. Our older members who have served in this capacity for years are beginning to step down and our younger families are not stepping in to fill these roles. Again, I wonder why this is not a priority? Joining the Food Festival volunteer group is fun, strengthens our community relationships and benefits our synagogue.

We have to make many tough decisions. How we set our priorities is certainly part of that challenge. May each of us recognize the value of active involvement with our synagogue community. It certainly can enrich our lives and the lives of our children.





From our President

*Cara Lieb, President
Board of Trustees*

Our Jewish Stories featuring: A Close up on Sam Ezekiel

March brings the Carmel Jewish Film Festival, so let's hear from one the trio of its organizers, who has been a member of CBI for about seven years. Sam Ezekiel comes to Monterey County from India, via England and Canada.

Sam was raised in what he terms "The New York of India," Bombay (now called Mumbai). He remembers a childhood where a diversity of religions lived in harmony, and where people were not defined by their religion. "It was a wonderful place to grow up." Sam grew up in a conservative Jewish family in a large Jewish community with several synagogues and Jewish schools. The Jewish community was well integrated with the rest of the Indian community. After completing High School, he moved to England to seek his fortune, leaving his family behind, including his Aunt Sarah, who started the Jewish Reform Movement in India with the famous Rabbi Hugo Gryn.

He got to England at the age of 16 years (!), with \$10, one suitcase and an eagerness to learn. While staying at a Jewish shelter in London, he got a job in a factory pleating skirts, and then worked in a mechanical workshop. Eventually he landed an apprenticeship at British Telecom and became interested and adept at all things technological. Life was hard, he had to work to support his school fees but he eventually earned a computer science degree. It was in England that he met Jews first hand who survived the holocaust and learned how religion divided people. He recalls it was these survivors who showed compassion and love for diverse peoples because of their recent experiences of pain and loss. During this time, Sam said he was "too busy surviving - going to school, working, and starting married life to worry about identity. I saw where I wanted to go and just kept going." He said his prayers and went to Temple on the High Holy Days, but didn't integrate into the Jewish community there.

Once he and Melanie moved to Toronto in 1969, he was able to live a more Jewish life, in part because his father and siblings had moved there. The Indian Jewish community also formed Congregation BINA where many Sephardic Jews worship. Sam said "Toronto had a thriving and vibrant Jewish community with many opportunities to experience the Jewish way of life." But soon, his success in technology and business drove him in 1980 to Silicon Valley for work, and the intense life of tech companies such as IBM, Cisco and several start-ups soon consumed him 24/7. Sam held senior executive positions at these companies. He travelled many times around the globe, worked with people from many different countries and religious backgrounds. He said "there is more in people that unites us than divides and all it takes is to look for it." Sam attended services at Congregation Shir Hadash (Los Gatos) and the Sephardic synagogue Magain David (San Francisco).

After close to 40 years in Silicon Valley, in 2012, (two sons and five grandchildren later), Sam and Melanie moved to the Monterey Peninsula and they celebrate their marriage of 52 years this year. Since his arrival, he has lent his expertise to various endeavors, including serving on the Monterey Planning Commission, the outreach committee at MIIS and closely working with County, City officials and leaders of the business community. At CBI, Sam found a welcoming community, caring, well-travelled with diverse interests, compassionate and accomplished. Sam felt he had "now arrived home." He feeds his wide breadth of interests, and appreciates how we have created our unique, diverse community. He feels privileged to contribute his experience and knowledge to the Carmel Jewish Film Festival, and we are happy that he does! Thank you, Sam!





CBI Book Club

March 12, 1:30 PM, Congregation Beth Israel.
Book: *WAYS TO DISAPPEAR* by Idra Novey

April 9, 1:30 PM, home of Karen Wiskoff (wiskoff@aol.com). Book: *THE DOOR* by Magda Szabó



Community Garden Project

In last months "From the Rabbi" bulletin article I wrote about my hope for moving forward with our community garden project.

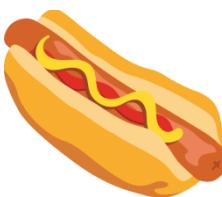
An anonymous donor felt so strongly about supporting this effort, they donated thousands of dollars to help cover the costs of getting the garden started. I again spoke with our synagogue neighbors and they have verbally agreed to let us use their property, the sloping land near our playground.

I imagine we will have to do some terracing work and certainly build some fencing. We will have to create a watering system as well. My guess is someone will be needed to do some architectural outlines for this project and we will probably need to get a permit to make our garden legal. Because of this generous donation, all these things can be paid for (although anyone who wants to donate some of the above will not be turned away!). I know we have some master gardeners in our community. Who is ready to volunteer to assist with this project? Wouldn't it be nice to serve fresh home grown vegetables to our monthly IHELP guests! How exciting for our children to help plan and tend our synagogue community garden! Please contact me (Rabbi Greenbaum) if you can help move this exciting endeavor forward.



Lunch with the Rabbi

Join Rabbi Greenbaum this month on **Thursday, March 7** at noon at Baja Cantina located about a mile east of CBI when he will lead a discussion titled "Mitzvah goreret Mitzvah (Doing Godly acts leads to doing Godly Acts)." What does this lesson mean? Are some commandments more important than others? Where do social justice projects fit in to God's commandments? If one doesn't believe in God, are the commandments still binding? Come prepared to RESPECTFULLY discuss, question and debate these issues. Lunch costs only \$20. Call the CBI office at 624-2015 to RSVP



BEST YEARS

Best Years Lunch Gathering

It's been a while since our Best Years group has enjoyed tasty kosher hotdogs. Let's join together on **Thursday, March 28** at noon for a delicious kosher hotdog lunch. With salads and chips and all the usual extras, it is a meal not to be missed. If time allows we will brainstorm together as we plan future Best Year events. To RSVP for this lunch, call the CBI office at 624-2015. Remember, **this event is free**. Please let us know if you need a ride to this event.



CBI Writers' Group

The group will meet in the CBI Library on Thursday, March 14 at 10:30. All are welcome!

Thinking about honoring a loved one or a special occasion?

Consider a plaque at CBI

A leaf on the Tree of Life \$180

A Yahrzeit Plaque in our sanctuary \$360





Bal Tashchit - Do Not Destroy

Torah tells us not to destroy what has been created, and particularly what is of use. In Deuteronomy 20:19-20, we are told not to cut down the fruit trees of an enemy while we are besieging a city, and Talmudic scholars extended this idea to protect anything useful. The laws of thermodynamics tell us that it is impossible to create or destroy matter or energy, but we can turn something useful into something useless with little effort at all. We are constantly involved in buying things, using them, and then throwing them away to take up space in landfills--or worse, to end up loose and dangerous in the environment. How can we do better at preserving the usefulness of material goods when they are no longer of use to us? Here are some ways you can help formerly loved objects find a new life in a new home (and maybe do a mitzvah at the same time!):

Yellow Brick Road

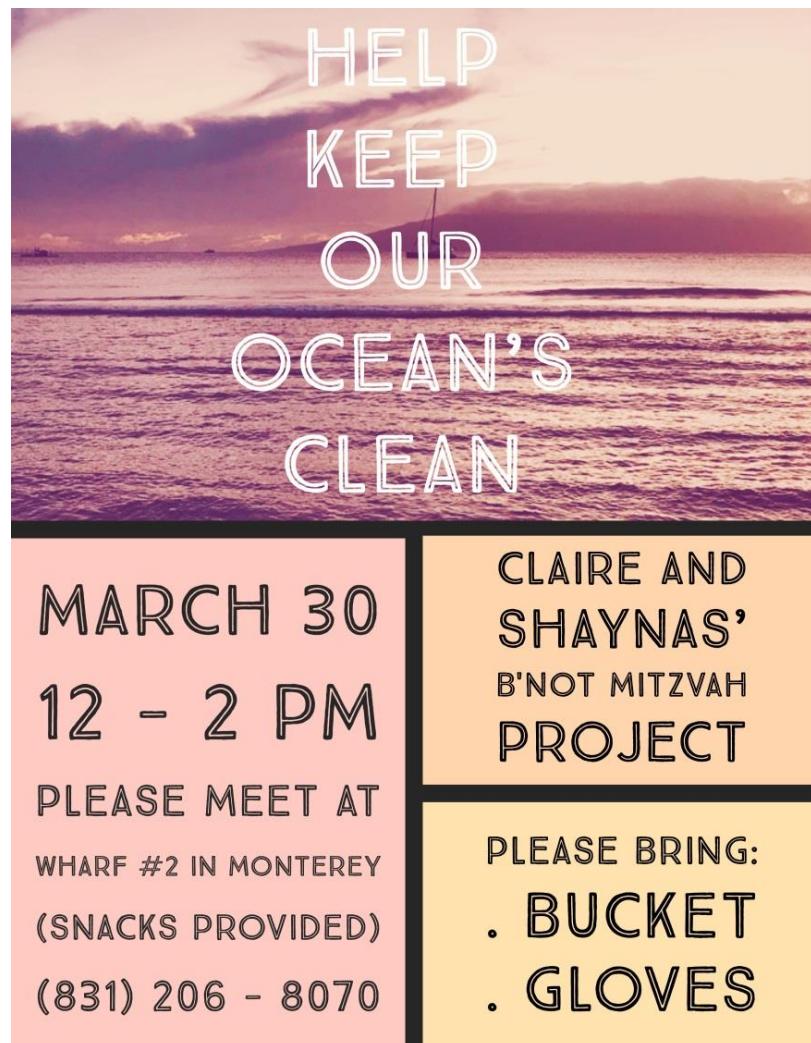
This lovely resale store is a local hero. A favorite place to find bargains in clothing, housewares, furniture, books, and more, Yellow Brick Road has donated over \$6.2 million to local charities over its 30 year history. Here's where you want to look for your next Purim costume! If you would like to see your ruby slippers turned into a scholarship, a meal for a hungry neighbor, or a beautiful concert, this might be a great choice. Learn more at <https://www.yellowbrickroadbenefitshop.org/>

ReStore

Jimmy Carter has made Habitat for Humanity famous, but the local ReStores earn the organization money in order to address housing shortages around the world by building homes, funding home loans, and more. Visit our local ReStore on Fort Ord (in a repurposed movie theater!) to find home improvement items from French doors to antique stoves to hardware. Contractors, homeowners, and local businesses can get a tax deduction for their donation, and the ReStore will pick up your donation if you arrange it ahead of time. <https://www.habitatmontereybay.com/>

Last Chance Mercantile

Since 1991, the Last Chance has been an award-winning hodgepodge of anything and everything that was just too good to go in the landfill. The store includes items donated by residents as well as treasures spotted by landfill staff on the "pick line" and rescued from oblivion. On a recent visit, we spotted a piano, some vintage plates, a pair of flowery rubber boots, and a giant stuffed snake! While you are there, you can drop off household hazardous waste, recycle, and visit their demonstration garden with its reuse-inspired art. The Last Chance will take anything useful and sellable, but no mattresses, refrigerators, wood, or toilets. Proceeds help cover operating costs at our amazing landfill and Materials Recovery Facility. Learn more at <http://www.mrwmd.org/last-chance-mercantile/>



BLOW OUT SALE

March Gift Shop Sale

Stop by the CBI Gift Shop in March when everything is on sale. All merchandise is marked down 30% (with some exceptions for jewelry).

Now is your chance to stock up on all your holiday and life cycle event needs.

PURIM PARTY!

JOIN THE FUN!

March 23, 2019

7-10pm

- Appetizers, wine, beer, soft drinks
- Dance to the music of Andrea's Fault
- Silent auction
- Costumes (optional)

\$54 per person

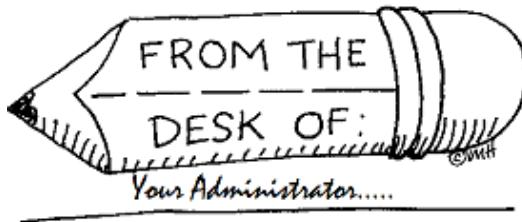
RSVP: (831) 624-2015

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

5716 Carmel Valley Road

Carmel, CA 93923

www.CarmelBethIsrael.org



The Wishlist

Our CBI community really came through for our new dishwasher. It was so gratifying to identify a need and have you all step up to meet it. Our beautiful new dishwasher is now installed and ready for its debut at the March 1 Shabbat Dinner. Thank you!!

Next on our wish list is a bit of renovating and redecorating. Now that our wonderful Cantor Alisa has been ordained it's time to give her a proper office. To that end we hope to raise \$5000 to cover the cost of paint, lighting, and furniture. This will also cover the cost of some new display cases for the CBI Gift Shop.



I want to thank the Board for supporting my attendance at the 2019 NATA (National Association for Temple Administration) Institute. It was a daunting but wonderful 5-day program that included classes and exams in Human Resources, Techniques and Tools of Synagogue Management, Budgeting and Finance, Governance, Membership, Marketing, as well as, Liturgy, Ceremonies, Holidays and Practices, and History of Reform Judaism. Here's my class picture:





Thank You to Our Oneg Hosts

We are grateful to the following people who helped make our February and March Onegs a beautiful experience:

February 1: Students and Families of our 6th Grade class.

February 8: Shelagh Baseman-
In loving memory of her mother Cecily Renov

February 15: February 15: Alan & Sandra Goldman
In loving memory of Sandra's Grandmother Dorothy Soffameeker and Alan's father David Goldman.

February 22: Friends and family of Erin Shoemaker - In honor of Erin becoming a Bat Mitzvah

March 1: The Adult Education Committee
In honor of Scholar In Residence - Roberta Grossman.

March 8: Wendy Rosenthal -
In honor of Katie Kelton's 10th birthday and in loving memory of Wendy's sister Sheryl.

March 15: Students and families of our 2nd and 3rd grade classes.

March 22: This date not yet filled. Please call the CBI office to host.

March 29: This date not yet filled. Please call the CBI office to host.

If you have not hosted an Oneg recently please help us fill our Oneg dates for the months of March, April, May and June.

Keeping this tradition alive is a simple yet meaningful way to honor someone you love or celebrate a special life cycle event.



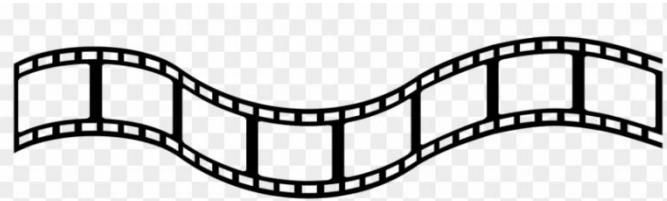
**Carmel Jewish
Film Festival**
(continued from
page 1)

We appreciate the support of the Carmel Unified School District in once again allowing us to use their beautiful Center for the Performing Arts at Carmel High School. The school's jazz ensemble will play at the Opening Night reception on March 2, selecting music that will complement our Hollywood theme inspired by that evening's film, *Carl Laemmle*. We are so pleased to have Greg Laemmle, grand-nephew of Carl and President of Laemmle Theaters, as our special guest.

Sunday, March 10, brings another centerpiece event: *An Act of Defiance* is a thriller that you won't want to miss. The panel following the film will be moderated by Ann Jealous with Rabbi Greenbaum, Monterey Mayor Clyde Roberson, and Village Project, Inc. Director Mel Mason.

Our Closing Night Bollywood celebration will feature Indian cuisine from local restaurants and Bollywood-inspired entertainment. Unfortunately, we can accommodate only 100 people for the reception, so get your tickets early. It costs two reception tickets or \$24 for this special event prior to the film *Shalom Bollywood*.

There is not enough space to talk about all the films, but we promise they are all worth your time. Thank you to all our sponsors, volunteers, and partners. There will be more on them in the April *Shofar*.





General Endowment Fund

Ms. Selina Glater & Cheryl Crose in honor of Cheryl's 65th birthday

Building & Grounds Fund

Victor & Rena Feuerstein in memory of Morris Feuerstein

Cantorial Restricted Fund

Mitchel & Deborah Winick in memory of Amanda Freedman's father, Henry Sharp
Mitchel & Deborah Winick in memory of Naomi Pollack's mother, Martha Barotz

College Scholarship

Matthew Schuss & Charlene Webber-Schuss
Lester & Wendy Tockerman In memory of beloved cousin, Seymore Dubrow

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Barry R. Harrow
Samuel & Gabriela Lipsky in memory of Dr. Jerry Rubin

Carmel Jewish Film Festival Sponsors

Rich & Carol Ader
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Michael Leavy & Susan Galvin

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Harriet Middledorf

Robert Moskowitz & Jeannette Stern

Mary Munsterman

Steven & Barbara Neil

Paul Mortuary

Seth & Naomi Pollack

Lisa Prochazka

David Sabih & Anna Swartley in honor of Susan Greenbaum

Wendy & Andrew Schmidt

Ralph Senensky

Roberta Singer

Joanne Storkan

Abra Teitler

George & Lily Waissbluth

Mindy Western

Mitchel & Deborah Winick

Carmel Jewish Film Festival Donation

Ilana & Ari Entin

General Donations

Maureen Chodosh

Ilana & Ari Entin

Ellyn Gelson in honor of February birthdays and anniversaries

Steven River Gurtin & Dr. Diana Case-Gurtin in memory of River's father Milton Gurtin

Nick & Aline Harris in memory of Jack Harris

Thomas & Ellen G. Krause in memory of Ellen's father Harry Ruja

Rosemary Lande in honor of Malina Breaux's birthday

Rabbi Jeffrey Schulman & Susan Alnes in loving memory of David Schulman

Martin & Karen Wiskoff in memory of Esther Stern

Oneg Donations

David & Barbara Ehrenpreis

Alan & Sandra Goldman in memory of Soffa and David Goldman

Religious School Donations

Joyce Olcese

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Laura Amow	1	Martin Wiskoff	12
Glenn Cooperman	1	Gadi Maier	14
Robert Feller	1	Deanna Adolph	15
Michael Goldman	1	Brian Kelly	15
Charles Kosmont	1	Elaine Shilling	15
Corrina Joan Rucka	1	Ruby Browning	16
Katie Marie Kelton	2	Barbara Ehrenpreis	17
Jacob Carlyle	4	Sheree Goldman	17
Richard Gerber	4	Cara Lieb	17
Linda Sweet	4	Ellen Weiner	17
Dan Weiner	4	Diana Rosenthal	18
Siena Goldberg	5	Debora Waxer	18
Stanton Schiffer	5	Barry Harrow	20
Ethan Schmidt	5	Jonny Goldberg	21
Eby Wold	5	Paul Richmond	22
Toni Lakind	7	Wendy Rosenthal	22
Grant Rosenberg	8	Alan Goldman	23
Eugene Ganeles	9	Ronald Kohen	23
Wendy Tockerman	9	David Epel	26
Channaorah Meir	10	Donna Shore	26
Peter Singer	10	Michael Dicus	27
Dennis Bates	11	Aline Harris	27
Tobi Marcus	11	Elaine Gallup Conner	28
Melanie Rosen	11	Ann Packer	28



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Peter & Deborah Stern	6
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Robert Moskowitz & Jeannette Stern	13
David & Barbara Ehrenpreis	25

FAMILY NEWS

Condolences

To the family of long-time CBI member Esther Stern

May her memory be a blessing to us all.

Simchas

Mazel Tov Erin Shoemaker on becoming a Bat Mitzvah

NINTH ANNUAL
CARMEL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
MARCH 2-17, 2019

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2019
CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
6:30 PM / OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION
7:30 PM / FILM: "CARL LAEMMLE"
Q&A / GREG LAEMMLE, LAEMMLE THEATRES, L.A.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2019
CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
2 PM / RECEPTION
3 PM / FILM: "WHO WILL WRITE OUR HISTORY?"
Q&A / DIRECTOR ROBERTA GROSSMAN

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019
CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING, PACIFIC GROVE
7 PM / FILM: "ITZHAK"
DESSERT RECEPTION FOLLOWS

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2019
MIIS-MONTEREY, IRVINE AUDITORIUM
6:30 PM / RECEPTION
7:30 PM / FILM: "A PICTURE OF HIS LIFE"
Q&A / PHOTOGRAPHER AMOS NACHOUM, DIRECTOR DANI MENKIN

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2019
MIIS-MONTEREY, IRVINE AUDITORIUM
2 PM / RECEPTION
3 PM / FILM: "AN ACT OF DEFIANCE"
PANEL / RABBI BRUCE GREENBAUM; MEL MASON, THE VILLAGE PROJECT; MAYOR CLYDE ROBERSON

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019
CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL, CARMEL
7 PM / FILM: "A NIGHT OF SHORTS"
Q&A / DIRECTOR KEREN HANTMAN, CINEMATOGRAPHER LUDOVICA ISIDORI

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2019
LIGHTHOUSE CINEMAS, PACIFIC GROVE
7 PM / FILM: "A BAG OF MARBLES"

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2019
CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL, CARMEL
6:30 PM / DESSERT RECEPTION
7:30 PM / FILM: "THE LAST SUIT"

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2019
CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL, CARMEL
5:30 PM / CLOSING NIGHT RECEPTION
6:30 PM / FILM: "SHALOM BOLLYWOOD"
PROGRAM, FREE DESSERT RECEPTION FOLLOWS

TICKETS TO FILMS & RECEPTIONS / www.carmeljff.org / 1-800-838-3006



Torah Connections:

Vol. 131 March 2019, 5779 -
Michael Waxer

Things you may have never heard of....

How often do you run into people, both Jewish and non-Jewish, who will say that they 'believe whatever the Bible *literally* says.'? When I hear this from Jewish folks I wonder if they are aware of the rich tradition we have, known as **PaRDeS**, which defines 4 levels of understanding Torah. The first level, the *Pshat*, is the literal level, but that is where one *starts*, not ends.

When I hear this comment from Christians, I wonder if they are aware of how it is very difficult to understand a literal translation without understanding what those literal words meant when written. For example, the famous verse in Devarim (Deuteronomy) 6:5,

"And you shall love HaShem with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might."

It is true the Hebrew word is 'lev' which we define as 'heart', but what is not often known is that the word 'heart' means 'mind' today. In other words, 'heart' back then meant 'your being', today our word 'mind' is perhaps the closest match. Our English word 'heart' today means our 'center of feeling', which is NOT what the Biblical text is telling us. This is true for a huge number of words in the Torah.

In the Passover story of the plagues, the Torah tells us that Pharaoh consulted his 'sorcerers' as the plagues began, seeing if they could match what Moses and Aaron were doing. After the first plague,

"The sorcerers of Egypt did the same thing with their spells, and this strengthened Pharaoh's heart and he did not listen to them as HaShem had said." [Shemos (Exodus) 7:22]

This pattern continues, starting with the first plague (blood water), then the second (frogs). By only the third plague, lice infestation, we find this fascinating dialogue:

"The sorcerers did the same thing with their spells, trying to create lice but they were unable to do so. The lice were upon man and beast. The sorcerers said to Pharaoh, 'It is the finger of HaShem'.." [Shemos (Exodus) 8:14-15]

What you may have never heard before is that there is a *drosh* (3rd level of understanding) that Pharaoh's sorcerers might have been folks we have heard of, specifically **Jethro, Job, and Balaam**. Each of them may

represent a personality type, something which speaks to us still today.

Jethro, who later became Moses's father-in-law, depicts the person who sees HaShem's will, learns from it, and ultimately decides that he wants to be part of the Jewish people. He ends up helping Moses and one of the Torah 'portions' is named for him, *Yitro*, which contains the Ten Commandments. In the *drosh*, Jethro advised the Pharaoh to not murder the Israelite babies, which is not what Pharaoh wanted to hear, so he was exiled and he went to Midian with his wife and daughter.

Job, who might have *remained silent* when Pharaoh sought his advice about murdering each newborn male Israelite, also witnessed the miracles of HaShem and we hear of him later, in the book of Job. Knowing this about Job might give us some explanation as to why Job was selected for his well-known story and why he lost his family in that story, as he might have had a lot of blood on his hands, so to speak.

Balaam, who we hear about later on as the 'sorcerer for hire' when King Balak hires him to curse the Israelites, also gave evil advice to Pharaoh, suggesting that all the newborns be drowned in the river. Balaam typifies the person who is obstinate and egotistical. His life is characterized by not being open to learning or changing, and choosing to use his (God given) talents for evil.

Said metaphorically, Jethro stops his digging and then repairs the hole he made, Job stops digging but leaves the (harmful) hole, and Balaam just keeps digging the hole deeper.

The richness of the Torah starts with the literal reading, but our tradition has many tools that allow us to delve into the depths of the Torah, *a uniquely amazing and sacred text*. Our task is to use these tools so we may learn and understand, so we can better ourselves, our families and our communities.

We are commanded to be holy, and to be a light unto the nations. These tools, which help us understand the Torah, give us the ability to fulfill these objectives.

This article includes inspiration from many sources, but is the sole expression of the author and specifically does NOT necessarily reflect those of the Board of Trustees of CBI, CBI, its membership, Reform Judaism, or Judaism. If you have any comments regarding 'Torah Connections', please e-mail a note to: mlwaxer@sbcglobal.net.



HELP Outreach

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

I-HELP for Men

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

February 3 - Seventh Grade - This dinner was hosted by the seventh grade religious school class and coordinated by Wendy Schmidt. This was also **Super Bowl Sunday!** The men arrived early to watch the big game on our big screen and were greeted with a wonderful kick-off "tailgate" party of nachos, chili and other appetizers. For dinner, Wendy and the seventh grade parents prepared a wonderful meal of baked chicken, broccoli and beef, salads, rice, steamed vegetables and salads. The foods were plentiful and delicious. Thank you for all your efforts!

Using football as a metaphor for teamwork to help each other achieve our goals, the religious school teachers and I-HELP coordinator presented a lesson on the mitzvah of working together to help others. The students created pocket cards with inspirational messages of hope and self-worth for each guest.

The men, visibly moved by the thoughts shared, quietly folded the cards and placed them in their pockets.

There was also a very emotional reunion. KR was the I-HELP on-site monitor for years, spending every evening with program participants. Eight months ago KR suffered a severe stroke and now resides in a Salinas rehabilitation facility. But, he was finally well enough for a brief escape. Two I-HELP participants and our CBI coordinator brought him to the I-HELP



Super Bowl party. KR laughed loud and talked constantly. He was truly moved and grateful to be back with his mates. It was a very special experience. The evening was truly special, warmth and

shelter, great food, heartfelt feelings of care and comradery, and the biggest game of America's pastime. Thank you CBI for your support.

March 3 - Mitzvah Day - The March I-HELP dinner is being sponsored by the CBI Board as part of Mitzvah Day. All students in our religious school will be preparing the meal under the direction of Malina Breaux and Abra Teitler. In conjunction with the cooking, students will again learn about the mitzvot of feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless and caring for others. 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!

Mitzvah Day make your mark



Recipients: IHELP, Food Bank of Monterey County, Rice Plus Project,
Local College Students, You Will Rise Project

How you can help:

Donate Non-Perishable Food!

Donations to benefit hungry students at local colleges & the Food Bank of Monterey County
Or financial donations to www.foodbankformontereycounty.org

IHELP

Individual sized toiletries (no razors or mouthwash please)

Volunteer on March 3

- Help at donation stations.
- Assist with student activities
- Write postcards to your representatives

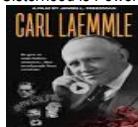
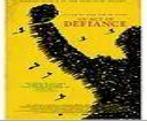
Mitzvah Day Financial Support!

- Make a donation to CBI directed to Mitzvah Day for supplies.
- Financial donations for Food for IHELP
- Support the Food Bank with a monetary donation

For more information about Mitzvah Day, and to confirm your participation, please contact Louise Riddell-Kaufman at directorlouise@aol.com or Charlene and Matthew Schuss (831) 250-7170 or cnmne3@comcast.net



Congregation Beth Israel
March 2019
Adar I ~ Adar II 5779

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				 CARMEL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL	1 6:30 Shabbat Dinner with S.I.R. Roberta Grossman Reservations required \$20 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services with special Birthday blessings and talk with S.I.R.	2 9:00 AM Morning Shabbat Service 10:30 AM talk with S.I.R. "Sisterhood is Powerful"  CARL LAEMMLE 6:30 Reception -7:30 PM Opening Night CJFF @ CHS Center for Performing Arts – <i>Carl Laemmle</i>
3 9:30 AM Rel.School K/7th MITZVAH DAY CJFF @ CHS Center for Performing Arts – 2:00 PM Reception 3:00 PM Film <i>Who Will Write Our History?</i> 5:00 PM – I-Help @ CBI	4 	5	6 4:00 PM B'nai Mitzvah 4:30 PM Hebrew School  Itzhak CJFF @ Center for Spiritual Awakening 7:00 PM Film <i>ITZHAK</i>	7  12:00 PM Lunch with Rabbi @ Baja Cantina	8 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services	9 9:30 AM Yoga Shabbat 10:30 AM Shabbat Study  CJFF @ Middlebury Institute 6:30 PM Reception 7:30 PM Film <i>A Picture of His Life</i>
10 9:30 AM Religious School K/7th Grades  JFF @ Middlebury Inst. 2:00 PM Reception 3:00 PM Film <i>An Act of Defiance</i>	11	12  CJFF @ CBI 7:00 PM <i>A Night of Short Films</i>	13 4:00 PM B'nai Mitzvah Class 4:30 PM Hebrew School 6:00 PM Aleynu	14  CJFF @ Lighthouse Cinemas 7:00 PM Film <i>A Bag of Marbles</i>	15  6:00 PM 2 nd & 3 rd Grade Shabbat Dinner 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services	16 9:30 AM Shabbat Study 6/7 th Grades 10:30 AM Service Study 10:30 Mazel Tots Purim Aleynu Big Sur Trip  CJFF @ CBI 6:30 PM Reception 7:30 PM Film <i>The Last Suit</i>
17 Religious School K/5 th 9:30 AM Munchkin & Me 12:00 PM Teacher Mtg. CJFF @ CBI Closing Night 5:30 PM Reception 6:30 PM Film <i>Shalom Bollywood</i>	18 	19 6:30 PM CBI Exec. Committee Meets	20 4:00 PM B'nai Mitzvah 4:30 PM Hebrew School 5:30 PM Purim Shpiel 6:00 PM Pizza Dinner	21	22  7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services	23 7-10 PM Purim Party@ CBI Reservations Required
24 Purim Carnival @ Beth El Salinas 9:30 AM Religious School 10:30 AM Carnival	25	26 7:15 PM Board of Trustees Meeting	27 4:00 PM B'nai Mitzvah Class 4:30 PM Hebrew School 6:00 PM Aleynu	28 12:00 PM Best Years – Hot Dog Lunch @ CBI 7:30 PM Adult Liturgy Class	29 6:30 PM Community Shabbat Dinner 7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Services with special Anniversary Blessings	30 10:30 AM Torah Study At Home with CBI Dessert Reception at the Lakind Residence Reservation Required

CBI Religious School

CBI Youth Calendar for March 2019

Our Youth Calendar for the entire year is now in a Google Calendar Format.

View and download at Carmelbethisrael.org/learning

Date	Special Events and Activities
Sunday, March 3	Religious School Grades K - 7 (9:30 - 12:00) IHELP - Mitzvah Day Students - set-up volunteers needed
Wed March 6	B'nai Mitzvah Class (4:00 - 6:00) Hebrew School (4:30 - 6:00)
Sunday, March 10	Day Light Savings Time Begins Religious School Grades K - 7 (9:30 - 12:00) Specialist - Grades K - 5 Art, No Specialists- Grades 6 & 7 Jewniors Movie Day - 12:00 - 1:30
Friday, March 15	2nd/ 3 rd Grade Class Shabbat 6:00 dinner, 7:30 service
Wed March 13	B'nai Mitzvah Class (4:00 - 6:00) Hebrew School (4:30 - 6:00) Aleynu (6:00 - 8:00)
Saturday, March 16	Shabbat Study for Grades 6 & 7 (9:30 - 12:30) Mazel Tots - Purim (10:30 - 12:00) Aleynu Big Sur Trip
Sunday, March 17	Religious School for Grades K - 5 (9:30 - 12:00) Specialist - Cooking - Hamentashen My Munchkin & Me (9:30 - 11:00) Teacher Meeting (12:00 - 2:00)
Wed March 20	B'nai Mitzvah Class (4:00 - 6:00) Hebrew School (4:30 - 6:00) Purim Shpiel (5:30) & Pizza dinner (6:00)
Saturday, March 23	Set-up for Purim Carnival @ Temple Beth El, Salinas, 1:00 - 4:00, Volunteers needed!
Sunday, March 24	Purim @ Temple Beth El, Salinas Religious School 9:30 - 12:00 Carnival Only 10:30 - 12:00
Wed March 27	B'nai Mitzvah Class (4:00 - 6:00) Hebrew School (4:30 - 6:00) Aleynu (6:00 - 8:00)
Sunday, March 31	Religious School Grades K - 7 (9:30 - 12:00) No Specialist - Grades K - 5 Art - Grades 6 & 7

My MUNCHKIN & ME



Who: Parallel program for parents of babies through school age children & Babies through Preschoolers

When: Sunday, March 17, 9:30 - 11:00

What: Parenting discussion group based on "How to Raise a Jewish Child" by Karen Kushner and Anita Diamant. Discussion facilitated by Megan Felthoven. This month's gathering will have a **special virtual question and answer session with author Karen Kushner**.

Preschool group with PJ Library story and craft with Kerri Goldberg.

Yummy snacks/ breakfast provided for adults and children.

How Much: \$5 drop-in.

Come meet new friends or re-connect with familiar faces as you discuss parenting issues.

Thank you to the Harold Grinspoon Foundation for underwriting this program.





Celebrate Purim Saturday, March 16, 10:30 - 12:00

Children ages 2 1/2 - 5, with a parent, are invited to celebrate an early Purim with Early Childhood Educator, Chinanit Kershner. Children make a Purim craft, listen to a PJ Library story and have fun playing. Parents - make new friends yourself when you bring your child to this special program.

Pre- registration is very helpful for the purchasing of materials. The fee is \$15 with preregistration for the remaining 4 events this year, \$5 for a single event with preregistration, or \$10 at the door.

For more information or to preregister, email directorlouise@aol.com.



A PJ Library Program

Thank you to the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the Hornik Family Foundation for subsidizing this program.



Jewish Family Ideas March 2019

- ◆ Purim re-enacts the story of Esther and Mordechai. Purim allows us to struggle with evil and with what is involved in defeating it. Have a family discussion about the difficult decisions that sometimes have to be made in order to do the right thing. Use specific examples to make a biblical story current.
- ◆ One of the traditions of Purim is to make shalach manot to give to friends and family members. Use small baskets, colorful bags, miniature Chinese food cartons, or decorate recycled strawberry baskets. Fill them with hamantaschen and

other goodies and deliver personally.

- ◆ Celebrate Purim the joy of Purim with your congregational friends: Fiddle on the Roof themed Purim Spiel at CBI on March 20, Preschool event on March 16, Adult Purim Party on March 23, Purim Carnival at Temple Beth El in Salinas on March 24.

- ◆ Book Suggestions:

The Story of Esther by Eric Kimmel. Beauty pageant, murder plots, political jockeying, and manipulating feasts unroll in biblical order. The text is dense and colorful with rich vocabulary in the embroidered dialogues underlining biblical action. This length offers a good volume for older elementary school children who often consider themselves too advanced for picture books. Ages 8+

Purim Play by Roni Schotter. With her cousins sick, Frannie is disappointed that her neighbor, Mrs. Teplitzky, has offered to take part in her family's annual Purim play. Mrs. Teplitzky, a former actress, arrives in a splendid costume. The elderly widow turns out to be a superb villain and steals the show. She also becomes a friend. Woven into the text are customs associated with the holiday including details about hamantaschen and the tradition of mishloah manot. Ages 4 - 8

Celebrating the Jewish Year: The Winter Holidays: Hanukkah, Tu B'shevat, Purim by Paul Steinberg. Very highly recommended and informative reading that will help the reader to create a memorable holiday experience for themselves and their loved ones that will be enhanced in both meaning and spirit. Adult

Note: Most of the above children's book suggestions are also PJ Library selections. To sign your children, ages 6 months - 8 years, up for a FREE Jewish book of the month club go to: PJLibrary.org. For Children ages 9 - 11 join PJ Our Way.

CELEBRATING NATURE

Aleynu Goes to Big Sur!

Enjoy Jewish understanding of nature & our place in it.

Saturday, March 16

Leave TBE 8:30 am/ CBI 9:00 am

Return CBI 5:00 pm/ TBE 5:30 pm

Bring: Your lunch

Wear: layers (including a jacket), sturdy walking
shoes & clothes for sitting on the ground

Cost \$30

RSVP by March 4 to Cantor Alisa:

Alisa@alisafineman.com, 831-214-4037

All participants must complete a liability waiver

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dDKy4UiYuF73fojUVkP02mJKuKJPMaZTlyQ247Dolxc/edit?usp=sharing>

We need one more 6 -7 passenger vehicle (with or without the owner as the driver). Please let Alisa know if you can assist.



3rd Trimester of Aleynu Begins in March!
New Participants Welcome!

Humans & the Earth

With Cantor Alisa Fineman



Let's Make Music

With Cantor Margaret Bruner



3RD TRIMESTER DATES
March 13 & 27, April 10 & 24, May 8
6:00 - 8:00 pm

Big Sur Trip - Saturday, March 16



COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Attention All High School Seniors!

If you are interested in applying for a CBI Merit College Scholarship, now is the time to get started. Applications are available in your high school career center, at the CBI office, or on the CBI website. Be sure to read the criteria for selection carefully. The deadline for completed applications is Wednesday, April 10, 2019, 4:00 p.m., to be returned to the CBI office, Attn. Judy Masliyah, Chair, College Scholarship.

The College Fund has been established for worthy Jewish students on the Monterey Peninsula who are being admitted to a four-year college. Awards are made in May and are presented at the student's high school awards banquet and are recognized at the Senior Shabbat. We honor students who consistently show outstanding academic work, leadership, community dedication and values of Jewish life, with a financial reward and community recognition.

We have awarded 89 scholarships since 1993 when we first started this wonderful endeavor. The committee is grateful to the wonderful contributors who have helped establish and have sustained this fund since its inception. Now, as the deadline arrives, we hope you will consider supporting this wonderful cause with your generous donation. These funds go directly to the students and your contribution is tax deductible.

Thank you.

Judy Masliyah, Chair, 831-649-3326



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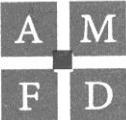
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Website: www.carmelbethisrael.org

Chartered in 1954 as the Jewish Community of the Monterey Peninsula, Congregation Beth Israel today serves the spiritual, educational, and social needs of Jews on the Peninsula. We derive programming and administrative strength from our affiliation with the Union for Reform Judaism and offer traditional programming to meet the needs of most Jews on the Monterey Peninsula. The Congregation sponsors weekly worship services on Shabbat evening and Shabbat morning; observances of all holidays and festivals; and formal educational programs from toddler through adult. We operate our own school on weekend mornings and midweek afternoons, and we also maintain a Judaic library.

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Alisa Fineman - *Cantor*

Louise Riddell-Kaufman - *Religious Education Director*

Julie Chase- *Administrator*

Abby King- *Administrative Assistant/Facility Use Coordinator*

Ruby Cohan - *Bookkeeper*

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Parshiot

March 2, Vayakhel

T: Exodus 35:1-38:20

H: I Kings 7:40-50

March 9, Pekude

T: Exodus 38:21-40:38

H: I Kings 7:51-8:21

March 16, Vayikra

T: Leviticus 1:1-5:26

H: Isaiah 43:21-44:23

March 23, Tzav

T: Leviticus 6:1-8:36

H: Jeremiah 7:21-8:3, 9:22-23

March 30, Shemini

T: Leviticus 9:1-11:47

H: II Samuel 6:1-7:17