

SHOFAR

Vol. XXVIII, No. 2 | April - June 2021

Congregation B'nai | srae| קהילת בני ישראל

cbi18@cbi18.org www.cbi18.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday - 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM Friday - 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM 714.730.9693

DAYS V-VIII — PASSOVER 2021

Passover Day V Thursday, April 1

Passover Day VI Friday, April 2 Passover Day VII
Saturday, April 3
Shabbat/Yom Tov Service
10:00 AM

Passover VIII
Sunday, April 4
Yom Tov/Yizkor Service
9:30 AM
Outdoor Service

COMING

SHABBAT UNDER THE STARS

Shavuot

Begins at Sundown
Sunday, May 16

Services

Monday, May 17

Check Our Website for Time

Tuesday, MAY 18

Yizkor

Check Our Website for Time

A PSALM A DAY Led by Rabbi Spitz Each week on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

9:30 AM

RABBI SPITZ'S MESSAGE



The Zohar:A Journey toward Freedom: Passover to Shavuot

At our Seders, we participate in a play. Before us are foods that remind us of shared pain. We eat bitter herbs until our eyes water; crunch the dry, stomachfilling matzah as slave food, and savor haroset, a mixed mash of fruit and nuts that reminds us of the mortar used by the builders of the pyramids. We celebrate a collective memory of when "God took us out of Egypt with an outstretched arm." Although we recline and enjoy a tasty meal and beloved companywhether in person or by zoom, we are invited to ask are we truly free?

For our sages, Pesech only began a journey toward freedom. Shackles are removed. Choice is offered. And yet, a count begins for 49 days. Erich Fromm, the great psychologist made a distinction between the "freedom from" Egypt and the "freedom to" of Mount Sinai, the destination of that count. He emphasized that we are defined by our commitments. At Mount Sinai in our collective memory we chose as a people to live in relationship with God. committing to live righteously and utilizing rituals to form bonds with each other and with the Divine. Passover leads to Shavuot, the celebration of receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai and entering into a communal commitment of living righteously before God.

At our Seders we echo words across generations, "Why is this night different than all other nights?" I hope we will arise at the end of the story-telling and fine dining feeling happy. Our sages say that a seder should begin in groaning as we recount

our past slavery and lead to rejoicing over our freedom. And yet, as we leave the Seder, what will linger? In what sense have we taken our people's past as our own? In what ways are we renewing a journey toward a life of caring for those who are in need financially and emotionally? And in what waysboth ritually and in righteous deed- do we separate from the rhythms of the world around us to proclaim: "I am a Jew, pursuing righteousness and accepting duties of communal belonging."

I am reminded of the words of Elie Wiesel, "Modest acts of kindness are more significant than we recognize. It does not have to be newsworthy. You just need to look for the outstretched hand. You just need to touch one person every day with compassion." Judaism challenges us. The journey from Egypt to Sinai goes on. Each of us participates in that collective journey through our communal commitments and deeds of compassion, choices that define us and our true freedom. \$\phi\$

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO HELP DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES?

Sunday Supper has served thousands of weekly meals at St. Paul's since 2010. Participants are seniors, families with children, men, and women who live on the streets. For a few hours each Sunday, these people have a welcoming place to go, and during this time of Covid, a sack supper and groceries. CBI volunteers help on the 2nd Sunday of each month. To volunteer, contact Mindy at mindylcsw@aol.com or Michelle at xoxo@cox. net. For additional information on how you can help contact Sandy at SundaySupper@stpauls.org.

Family Promise of Orange County opened their doors 10 years ago and have served over 300 families experiencing homelessness. Donations of food and personal hygiene items are needed throughout the year. Volunteers can help in a variety of ways. April 28th is Help Them Home Giving Day. Join FP, as they partner with 18 other OC homeless service nonprofits during this 24 hour of online giving. To learn more about ways you can help, go to familypromiseorangecounty.org or call 714.787.3487.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PHYLLIS ABRAMS



Sadly, this will be our second Passover that will find us detached from our family and friends. Our Seder, although equally as meaningful in a traditional sense, will continue to represent the resolve of our inner strength as a people, despite our unfortunate isolation from others due to the Covid virus. Historically, almost 80% of

all Jews (affiliated and non-affiliated) attend a Passover Seder. Participation in a Passover Seder even exceeds attendance at Yom Kippur services, which is 62%, or lighting Shabbat candles, which is 28%. But the strength of our collective community is our spirit and determination, even if we are not physically together in prayer and worship.

This is a conflict on a global battlefield and the Covid pandemic is an unseen enemy in which only our battle scars are visible: isolation, anger, and death. But the obstacles that the Jewish people have weathered in the past are a clear illustration of our will and resolve.

Rabbi Kalonymus Shapira, writing from occupied Poland in 1940 discussed the Torah's description of God leading the people Israel out of Egypt as a "pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night." The imagery here strongly suggests that worship and traditions need to be followed not only when our travels are smooth and rewarding but also when our struggles seem endless. If I could impart anything to you today it would be the feeling of optimism and hope.

Our traditional Jewish principles include that the preservation of life overrides almost any other duty. And a Seder is a religious duty, not just an opportunity to see extended family and enjoy holiday dishes. One reason why Passover is the quintessential Jewish Holiday is that you celebrate it by talking about it. As the Haggadah says, "everyone who discusses the exodus from Egypt is praiseworthy."

My husband and I frequently reminisce about sitting in Temple during Shabbat services, hugging our granddaughters, or the travel plans that had to be put on hold. Since we have both received vaccine injections we have actually gotten a hug from our granddaughters but we have come to the realization that tomorrow will never be quite like yesterday, and the way our day-to-day lives meandered through time. However, it is incumbent on us, at this very moment, to make sure that when the darkness of the virus begins to lift that the light on our path is bright.

Albert Einstein once said: "There are two ways to live. You can live as if nothing is a miracle or you can live as if everything is a miracle."

From my family to yours, we hope you had a Ziesen Pesach – a sweet and wonderful Pesach.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

SHARON ALKIN, DIRECTOR



Most mornings, I begin my day with a walk around the preschool to say hello to the children and teachers. To get to the other side of the school, I walk through our outdoor environment. On my morning journey, I usually stop to look at the beautiful plants and flowers in the garden. Now, with everything blooming, it is evident that Spring is on the

way. One can feel it in the air.

Each year, Monarch butterflies return to our garden sanctuary. They eat the leaves of the milkweed plants and lay their eggs, which then hatch as tiny caterpillars. The caterpillars explore and eat, growing larger preparing to transform into a chrysalis. A few weeks ago, some children spotted baby caterpillars munching on the milkweed leaves. Our Pre-K children named them Freddie, Teddie, and Cutie. Each day, the children ran outside, eager to discover how much the caterpillars had grown! The children were mindful when working in the outdoor environment and riding their bikes around the garden, knowing that the caterpillars sometimes crawl onto the cement. We overheard children gently reminding each other to watch out for the caterpillars.

Knowing that we share the environment with other creatures gives the children the opportunity to practice the Jewish value of Tza'ar Ba'alei Chayim, compassion towards animals. This is an important lesson for all of us: each living creature is deserving of kindness, patience, safety, and respect.

It wasn't long before the tiny caterpillars grew larger and soon we saw them hanging upside down, curled into a J-shape, beginning the process of becoming a pupa, enclosed in a chrysalis. The chrysalides are a magnificent jade color, with shiny gold spots along the top. After some time, the chrysalides become darker and if you look closely, you can see the outline of the wings inside. Soon, the beautiful black and orange wings of the butterfly are clearly visible, and within hours, the butterfly emerges. The butterfly then hangs upside-down, as its new wings unfold and dry, flapping slowly, getting stronger preparing to take flight. What an amazing sight it is to behold as you witness a butterfly fly for the very first time!

Spring brings a sense of hope and symbolizes new beginnings. We too, like the Monarch butterflies, are emerging from our chrysalides of the past year, opening and spreading our wings, getting stronger as we prepare for our next adventures here at the preschool.

I wish you all a happy and healthy Spring season!

Enrollment is now open for the 2021-2022 school year. Please call me at (714) 730-0860 to schedule a tour.

In the B'nai Israel Family



Bat Mitzvah of Melissa Maya Marzouk April 17 (5 lyar)

Melissa is a seventh grader at TVT. Her favorite subjects in school are math and English. Her hobbies include playing soccer, watching and creating TikToks, and hanging out with her friends. She is also an avid baker, and her specialties include challah (of course), chocolate souffles and chocolate chip cookies. For her Mitzvah Project, Melissa intends to volunteer with her family for a Sunday Supper program event through CBI. Melissa's family is incredibly proud of her hard work, dedication, and great attitude in preparing for her upcoming Bat Mitzvah.



Bar Mitzvah of Jonathan Groner

May 29 (18 Sivan)

Jonathan spent his joyful early years at CBI CDC. He continues his Jewish education now as a 7th grade honor student at Tarbut V'Torah in Irvine. Jonathan is surrounded by a great circle of school friends. His favorite academic classes are science and math. He also enjoys playing bass guitar in his school garage-band. Jonathan participates in multiple sports, his favorites being basketball and baseball. During the pandemic, he also took up tennis. He is an avid reader and writer and likes learning computer programming. In his free time, Jonathan enjoys trips to the beach with friends and hanging out with his brothers and his puppy, Karma. Jonathan is excited to celebrate his simcha with his family and friends!

YOUTH PROGRAMMING

EMILY FISCHER, DIRECTOR



Shalom, Everyone!

A huge thank you to everyone involved with our Purim CAR-nival. We are so thankful for all of our sponsors, volunteers, and participants. Together, we brought together a festive celebration for our families. It was truly a gift to see our

community together, in person (and safely!), for the first time since last March.



We have more fun-filled virtual events coming up! All of the dates are listed to the right.

Stay up-to-date on our latest and greatest through our Instagram, @CBIUSY and our website, cbiusy. com. Don't forget to register for text reminders and links through Remind101. Text @CBIUS" to 81010. Looking

forward to seeing everyone in person soon and online even sooner.

L'shalom, Emily | youth@cbi18.org | 818.922.5218



USY:

Lounge Nights Tuesdays at 6:30PM (No Lounge 3/23 and 5/18)

Shabbat Clubs Fridays at 6:00PM 3/12, 4/2, 5/7, 6/4

Saturday Night Events

2/27 at 6:30 | 3/20 at 7:45 | 4/24 at 8:15 | 5/22 at 8:45

Regional USY:

Kinnus March 4th-7th Murder Mystery Night 4/10 Convention May 27th-31st

Kadima Events Sundays at 12:45PM:

2/28, 3/21, 4/18, 5/9

Regional Kadima Events:

3/14, 4/11, 4/25

Machar Events Sundays at 12:45PM:

3/7, 3/21, 4/11, 4/18, 5/2, 5/30



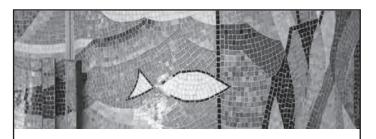
YISM'CHU

with Rabbi Spitz. Amy Robinson Katz, Carl Cedar





April 3, April 10, May 8, & June 12



ShabbatHOME Partnership Series

April 16

With Rabbi Ed Feinstein and Cantor Phil Baron of Valley Beth Shalom Synagogue

June 18

With Ray Ahud Sela and Cantor Daniel Friedman of Temple Ramat Tzion

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

with Rabbi Spitz, Rabbi Foonberg Amy Robinson Katz & Mike Mymon

Sundays 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

The CBI CDC Parent Committee Presents

A VIRTUAL AUCTION NIGHT



All donations will be matched 2:1 by a generous donor

April 25 at 4:00 PM

Coastal Services

April 24 - 10:00 AM

ShabbatHOME with Rabbi Adam Greenwald

May 22 - 9:00 AM

Torah in the Park

HAL'LU Musical Services

With Rabbi Spitz, Amy Robinson Katz, Carl Cedar, and Leeav Sofer

FRIDAY, MAY 14

How to Read Scripture with a Modern Lens

Led by Dr. Ahuva Ho Sundays - 1:15 PM

Parashat Hashavuah

Study the week's Torah portion

Coordinated by Mimi Goldstein Sundays - 4:00 PM

TALMUD STUDY

Led by Neil Spingarn

Wednesdays - 7:30 PM

BOOK CLUB

The third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM

April 15

The General's Cook by Ramin Ganeshram

May 20

Giver of Stars by JoJo Moyes

June 17

Manhattan Beach by Jennifer Egan



With Gratitude...

Thank you to all who donated to our annual Mishloah Manot fund raiser! We are grateful for your support of our students and teachers!

- The CBI Religious School

GANZE MEGILAH

Brigitte & Craig Frankel **Heather & Stuart Katz** Lilya & Joel Reiss

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Congregation B'nai Israel gratefully acknowledges the following donations

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IN HONOR OF

The marriage of Paul & Karen Brach

- Nancy & Carl Cedar

Ed Levin's birthday

- Sandra Kaye

Elizabeth Miller for doing our shopping for us during the pandemic

- Loretta & Herb Modelevsky Abbigail & Makayla being called to the Torah

- Leah & Eric Jacobs

The joint birthdays of Marla Nathan, Ed Levin, Jim Pasino, Michael Wolf & Sue Ann Cross

- Sue Ann Cross

Lydia Levin Kuperberg's birthday

- Sidney & Judy Kuperberg Carl Cedar & Amy Robinson Katz

- Rhonda & Hal Hurwitz

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Batia Swed

Sybil Miller-A full & smooth recovery

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- Beatriz & Yosef Macias

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- Shirley Lowy

Parviz Ebrahemi & with gratitude for the Sunday & Wednesday Minyan Services

- Fred & Roksana Ebrahemi

Papa (Bubba) -Alan Markowitz

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Maxine Bozanic, mother of Debbie Moysychyn

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Miriam and Hayim Ninyo on the birth of their granddaughter Eden

- Natalie and Mike Vishny

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Our grandchildren, Jacob, Zachary & Ilana Blum

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IN MEMORY OF

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IN HONOR OF

Rabbi Spitz

- Michael Rubin
- Ed & Fredda Sussman

Rabbi Spitz's Psalm class

- Esther Friedman

Rabbi Spitz for his kindness shown to Gloria Friedman

- David Friedman

cont. on next page



Rabbi Spitz in appreciation of his kindness

- Shirly Lowy

Thank you, Rabbi Spitz,

- Deanna Litwer

With gratitude for his beautiful words on our wedding day

- Josh & Dorothy Varkel

In appreciation of Maxine's celebration of life

- Debbie Moysychyn & the family of Maxine Bozanic

In gratitude for Rabbi Spitz's extra effort to lead the unveiling for Karl Frankel

- Craig Frankel

In appreciation of Rabbi Spitz for attending my father's 18th yahrzeit at Pacific View

- Nessim Albagli

In appreciation of Rabbi officiating at Joe's unveiling

- Barbara Baim

IN MEMORY OF

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- Shirley Deutsch

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001

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- Joan & Chalky Samson

NEPHEW

Mark Krasnow

- Deana Litwer

AUNT

Stella Goldsmith

- Lynn Levine

MEN'S CLUB

FOREVER STUDENTS

Sunday, April 25 at 10:15 AM Sunday, May 23 at 10:15 AM

Share your knowledge at one of our Forever Student events.

Learning is important at any age.

Contact Kevin Judd at kjudd152@yahoo.com

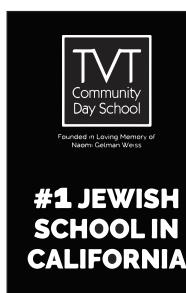
HEARING MEN'S VOICES

A CBI Men's Club Series for Men

Sunday, June 27 at 10:15 AM

Would you like to moderate a discussion?

Contact Kevin Judd at kjudd152@yahoo.com



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Dated Material

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR APRIL, MAY & JUNE

Friday, April 2 Passover #VI

6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 PM USY Shabbat Club

Saturday, April 3 Passover #VII

10:00 AM Yism'chu Shabbat Morning Sunday, April 4 Passover #VIII

9:30 AM Outdoor Passover Service with Yizkor

Friday, April 9

6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, April 10

10:00 AM Yism'chu Shabbat Morning Parashat Shemini

Friday, April 16

6:00 PM ShabbatHOME Partnership Series with Rabbi Ed Feinstein and Cantor Phil Baron of Valley

Beth Shalom Synagogue

Saturday, April 17

10:00 AM Shabbat Morning Services Bat Mitzvah Melissa Marzouk Parashat Tazria/Metzora

Friday, April 23 **6:00 PM** Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, April 24

10:00 AM ShabbatHOME with Rabbi Adam Greenwald

Sponsored by CBI Coastal Parashat Achrei Mot/Kedoshim

Friday, April 30 6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Saturday, May 1

10:00 AM Shabbat Morning Services Parashat Emor

Friday, May 7 6:00 PM USY Shabbat Club

Saturday, May 8

10:00 AM Yism'chu Shabbat Morning Parashat Behar/Bechukotai

Friday, May 14

6:00 PM ShabbatHOME HAL'LU

Saturday, May 15

10:00 AM Shabbat Morning Services Parashat Bamidbar

Monday, May 17 Shayuot #I **Check Our Website for Time**

Tuesday, May 18 Shavuot #II Check Our Website for Time

Service

Friday, May 21

6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services

Saturday, May 22

9:00 AM CBI Coastal in the Park 10:00 AM Shabbat Morning Services Parashat Nasso

Friday, May 28

6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services

Saturday, May 29

10:00 AM Shabbat Morning Services Bar Mitzvah Jonathan Groner Parashat Beha'alotecha

Friday, June 4 6:00 PM USY Shabbat Club

Saturday, June 5

10:00 AM Shabbat Morning Services Parashat Shelah

Friday, June 11

6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services

Saturday, June 12

10:00 AM Yism'chu Shabbat Morning Parashat Korach

Friday, June 18

6:00 PM ShabbatHOME Partnership Series with Ray Ahud Sela and Cantor Daniel Friedman

of Temple Ramat Tzion Saturday, June 19

10:00 AM Shabbat Morning Services Parashat Chukat

Friday, June 25

6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services

Saturday, June 26

10:00 AM ShabbatHOME with

Rabbi Adam Greenwald. Sponsoreds by CBI Coastal

Parashat Balak

Weekday Minyan

9:10 AM Sunday Mornings

(check website for schedule)

8:15 PM Wednesday Evenings

(check website for schedule)



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