



SHOFAR

Vol. XXVIII, No. 3 | July-September 2021

Congregation
B'nai Israel
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

SHABBAT UNDER THE STARS

Fridays at 6:00 PM

July 23 | August 27

A Season of Dreams and Memories

looking toward the future and celebrating our past

Come enjoy this special time together as we wish Rabbi Spitz a beautiful future
and welcome Rabbi Ben Goldstein, our transitional spiritual leader!

The Season's Line Up:

SELICHOT SHABBATON WEEKEND with PETER PITZELE and HAL'LU

August 27-29

Sponsorships available starting at \$1,800

HIGH HOLY DAYS with RABBI SPITZ, CANTOR AMY, HAL & CARL

September 6-8 - Rosh Hashanah Services & Family Programming

September 7 - Tashlich

September 15 - Kol Nidre

September 16 - Yom Kippur (Neilah)

SUKKOT SHABBAT DINNER and SERVICES with RABBI SPITZ

September 24-25

SIMCHAT TORAH

Featuring drinks and live music by Leaav Sofer and his band, Mostly Kosher

September 28-29

...and save the date!

CELEBRATION HONORING RABBI ELIE KAPLAN SPITZ

December 12, 2021

Seating is limited as determined by CDC Guidelines at that time.



RABBI SPITZ'S MESSAGE



“A Simple and Complex Love Story”

Psalms are a new-found romance. I love their straight-forward honesty, encompassing joy and pain, hope and despair, intimacy with and distance from the Creator, particularism, and universalism. I am drawn to the tension of opposites, as if a musical string pulled in two directions. For in that tension is life's harmonic sound. Collectively, the 150 psalms are a magnificent symphony, expressing the range of human yearnings and the Jewish people's core identities. These hymns buoyed Jews across place and time with memories of King David's life, return from exiles past, and a vision of a brighter horizon ahead. Psalms served as components of daily prayer and were

chanted when a special need arose. We do not know when any individual Psalm was composed, but collectively they were completed over 2500 years ago.

In March 2020 as we were going into quarantine, I began a new project. My goal was to teach each Psalm sequentially for a half-hour. I did not know how far I would get. Those who joined me on screen put wind in my sails with comments that often illuminated and whose presence motivated me to prepare patiently and deeply. I began with translation, choosing to keep God gender-neutral and to hone closely to the Hebrew in order to convey specificity of words and intentional ambiguity. I read a broad range of commentators, including Jewish sages of exile and contemporary literary scholars, and sought to discern how lines of Psalms had rippled forward across Jewish, Christian, and Western culture. I had known many lines from Psalms by heart, especially those sung as part of liturgy. But this was the first time that I examined each Psalm as a separate artwork, with the ultimate question being how were these words still relevant.

I could not have done this project without Zoom, enabling me to come into the homes of my fellow-learners. And what we studied, got recorded. Many hundreds have participated, some from across the

globe. For most of this process I selected a participant to honor for each class. Doing so offered the gratification of gift-giving and the opportunity to showcase the remarkability and diversity of participants.

During my years as the rabbi of CBI, I have loved to teach and have always sought to do so with new material to enable my own growth and that of my students. Although COVID kept us physically apart, it also allowed us to learn together. As I write, we are within weeks of reaching Psalm 150. I delight as if reaching a mountain top after a formidable climb. Each of the Psalms had its own challenges and joys, both luring forward and giving pause. Please consider choosing a Psalm from the portfolio on our website. In doing so, you will take greater possession of a treasure that is already yours.

I close with deep gratitude:

for Psalms, meant to be read and reread and sung;

for each of you who have joined me for a class or will choose to yet tap into these teachings;

for being a Jew who as part of a continuity is both heir and creator. ✧

In the B'nai Israel Family



Bat Mitzvah of Marcella Stahl

August 21 (13 Elul) Ki Tetze

Marcella is a 7th grader at Irvine Hebrew Day School. She loves chess, sports, musicals, and learning about her Jewish heritage. She is very creative and is always working on an interesting project- a rollercoaster in her room, creating her own board game, selling painted rocks, and so on. Marcella is named after her great-great grandmother from Syria, Marcelle. Marcelle was a beautiful, holy, and special woman. Marcella has certainly lived up to the name.



Bar Mitzvah of Isaac Hershberg

August 7 (29 Av) Re'eh

Isaac just completed seventh grade at Oxford Preparatory Academy, Saddleback Valley. Isaac was 100% virtual for the entire school year, yet he still excelled in his academics. He always attended Zoom with a smile and participated fully. Isaac said he enjoyed virtual schooling since he didn't have to eat just sandwiches for lunch, and he got to stay in his pajamas during class! Isaac's favorite subjects are math, science, and English/Language Arts. After school Isaac enjoys participating on the eSports team. He is also very active in his BSA Scout Troop, Troop 4321. In his troop Isaac has served in various leadership positions such as Patrol Leader and Den Chief. Isaac is also a member of the Order of the Arrow, an honor society of the BSA for those Scouts who exemplify the Scout oath and law. Isaac also enjoys drawing, tennis, building Legos, and archery.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PHYLLIS ABRAMS



As a person with an extensive educational experience focused in mathematics, I have had a lot of practice working with algebraic formulas. One of the most basic ones (but still fascinating) is: 'distance = time (rate) multiplied by speed' or ($D = T \times S$). What prompted me to think of this instead of the High Holiday greeting that I had initially planned was

because I was thinking of the current status of things at CBI, and the not-too-distant future, when things might resemble what they once were. How long would it take us to get there?

Our community has come a long way because in sharp contrast to just a few months ago. Last Shabbat, my husband and I sat in our usual seats, davening together. It was remarkable just to look around and see everyone; with almost everything in its right place and time. When you work with the formula of $D = T \times S$, it is a fairly simple task to solve for any single missing variable if you are given specific values for at least two of the other variables. However, because of the complexities that exist in the world right now, we do not know any of the specific values for the remaining variables in our formula. Instead we have adjectives such as slow and deliberate for time, and cautious but determined for speed.

We are hoping that the **distance** we need to travel is the same as the time between now and Rosh Hashanah. The **speed** is our precautionary note because we don't want to go too fast and overlook a necessary step or go too slow and miss our goal of being together, as a community, by Rosh Hashanah.

In 1987 the Dow Jones Industrial stock average closed the year at 1,938, a gallon of gas cost 89 cents, "The Simpsons" premiered on television, and Rabbi Elie Spitz became the rabbi at Congregation B'nai Israel. Consequently, the High Holidays of 2021 will be bitter sweet for CBI because it will mark the last High Holiday service conducted by Rabbi Elie Spitz. One of my fondest memories is when I wandered into the B Street warehouse complete with its blue walls and decorative poles, and hearing Rabbi Spitz start the service as he walked up the center aisle, singing the morning prayers. That was the moment I knew I had found a home. While our surroundings may have changed, Rabbi Spitz's spiritual leadership has not.

Change, it seems, has been the touchstone in our lives for the past 16 months since Covid-19 invaded the world. The experiences of the very recent past have left us a bit isolated and fearful and sadly have given us a vision of the future that is somewhat opaque. However, recent events would strongly suggest that we are coming out from beneath the dark clouds and headed for a much brighter tomorrow and our synagogue will once again be the keystone in our lives of faith and friendship.

We hope you have a happy, healthy, and wonderful summer, and from our home to yours, from Steven and me to all of you, we wish you an early L'Shana Tovah.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

SHARON ALKIN, DIRECTOR



June 15th marked the one-year anniversary of the school reopening. This was most definitely a reason for us to celebrate! I want to acknowledge the preschool staff for their courage to return to school when there were so many unknowns. They have worked tirelessly each day to ensure the health and safety of

our students. I thank them all with much gratitude.

Each year, butterflies are released at the PreK graduation ceremony to symbolize the wonderful growth and emergence of our graduates. Just a few days ago, the PreK class sent off the butterflies that they had nurtured for many weeks. Every year, the teachers plan the life cycle of the butterflies around the date of the graduation ceremony so that the butterflies emerge a few days before graduation. However, just as the children in the PreK class are eager to graduate and move on to kindergarten, our fluttering friends were just as ready to stretch their wings and explore the big, beautiful world around them, emerging days ahead of schedule, which came as a wonderful surprise!

As the PreK children leave our preschool, we feel confident that their time at our school offered them many opportunities to practice Jewish values and traditions, created a strong foundation for Jewish learning and the people they will become. Our greatest hope is that as our PreK students go off into the world, they take with them the values learned here. We hope they choose to be kind to others, to be compassionate towards all living things, to be courageous in the face of a challenge, to be curious, and to carry with them a love of learning and wonder, always. We cannot wait to learn about all that they accomplish in the next chapter of their lives. They are ready to fly off with a newfound set of wings, and as we wave goodbye with full but heavy hearts, we wish them an abundance of success on their way. We look forward to their visiting us again soon and hearing of their many adventures.

As we say goodbye to familiar faces, we are also excited to welcome back our current families and welcome many new families for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. We are also happy to announce that we will be implementing a new PreK program to accommodate more full-day experiences and learning opportunities for our students. There are still openings in the PreK classroom for the upcoming school year, so please contact me to schedule a tour if you are interested in enrolling your child. I wish you all a happy and healthy summer.

Come Join Us!

Interested in a Dynamic, Reggio-Inspired Preschool?
Contact Sharon Alkin for a tour at: (714) 730-0860



WELCOME, RABBI GOLDSTEIN!



We are pleased to announce, Rabbi Ben Goldstein has been chosen as our transition rabbi. He served as the Senior Rabbi of Beit T'Shuvah, a Jewish recovery center in Los Angeles. He previously served as a rabbi at Temple Aliyah in Woodland Hills, and spiritual leader of Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim in Cranford, New Jersey.

Rabbi Goldstein will begin working with us starting in September, having a one-month overlap with Rabbi Spitz, which we feel will help with this transition. Rabbi Goldstein will be at CBI each week, Wednesday – Sunday and will be available Mondays and Tuesdays via telephone or Zoom, or in-person if needed.

Rabbi Goldstein and his three children live in Los Angeles. As California continues to re-open, we look forward to in-person time with Rabbi Goldstein and meeting his family. We are confident that he will complement our congregation and meet our needs during our transition.

Welcome, Rabbi Goldstein!

NEW BEGINNINGS...

BY RABBI ROBIN FOONBERG, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION



When we begin school in the Fall, we will have just celebrated our High Holy Days, and read parashah Bereshit, the first book of the Torah. Just as we begin again with our cycle of Torah readings, we will begin again with our new school year. But this year, more than other years, feels new. Brand new! And we are so excited to welcome you all back to CBI!

We learned so much from our pandemic experience. The teachers and I are excited to take the best of what we learned and incorporate it into our program. Online learning will still be an option for those who need it, and we are upgrading the technology in all our classrooms. We have learned new ways to use technology and we also learned that being panim el panim, face to face, is still the best way to learn.

We are eager to have our classrooms full of children again. Learning about Jewish holidays, history, and Hebrew, Jewish values and Torah stories. We are eager to have them in our sanctuary singing and praying with Carl Cedar. We are eager to engage them in more art projects with our Art Director, Marina Segal.

Register today to enroll your children in our beautiful school! You can register on our website <https://cbi18/education/religious-school/> where you will also find a link to our calendar for the 2021-22 school year. And, please tell your friends about CBI's Religious School!

YOUTH DEPARTMENT

SHERI GALANTE, DIRECTOR



Camp B'nai Ruach is where Spirits Soar! The future is bright and we are all so excited to be back together again. This summer promises to be bigger and better than ever. We have four weeks planned - complete with beach days, field trips, pool parties, science, art, sports, games, color wars, cooking and so much more. Our weeks are filling up with a few open spots saved just for you. Don't be left out of summer fun! Camp registration is open for kids going into TK-9th grade. Scholarship money is available thanks to generous CBI donors and Orange County Federation. Please contact the CBI office for details or the Camp B'nai Ruach Camp Director Sheri Galante at camp@cbi18.org.

There is so much Ruach in the CBI youth department!

USY has wrapped up a challenging year with some beautiful highlights. We have new members, a new board of active and excited USYers. We are looking forward to getting together in person for our end of summer pool party in August. We will follow up with the first Shabbat Club of the year on Friday, September 3. September 11th will be our first Saturday night USY event followed by Sushi in the Sukkah on Thursday, September 23. Mark your calendars for the best year of USY!

Regional Far West Events

LTI - 8/20-8/22 online only

Encampment - 11/12-11/14

Jr. USY/Kadima Kinnus - 1/21-1/23/2022

Regional Convention - 5/27 - 5/30

Far West Summer Get Togethers

6/23 in Los Angeles | 6/28 in San Diego

7/21 in Los Angeles | 7/30 in San Diego

Summer End CBI USY Pool Party

Sunday afternoon August 29, 2021

Machar Kadima

Back together again party

Sunday 12:45 October 3, 2021

For details about membership and to register for any USY program, contact me at youth@cbi18.org.

To receive up to date texts, sign up on Remind101 by texting “@CBIUS” to 81010.

YISM'CHU

A Musical
Shabbat Service

with

Rabbi Elie Spitz,
Cantor Amy Robinson Katz,
Carl Cedar



Join us Saturdays at 9:30 AM
July 10, August 14 & September 11

Coastal Services

The Wandering Minyan Returns!



Join us Saturdays
at 9:30 AM in Irvine

July 3, August 7
September 4

PrayerSong

with

Cantor Amy Robinson Katz
Saturday, July 31 at 9:30 AM
In the Family Life Center

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

July 15

An Officer and a Spy
by Robert Harris

August 19

The Henna Artist
by Alka Joshi

No September Meeting
Yom Kippur Day



ShabbatHOME Friday Night

With
Rabbi Elie Spitz &
Cantor Amy Robinson Katz

Join us Fridays at 6:00 PM
July 16, August 20 & September 17

WELCOME TO THE 2021-2022 CBI USY BOARD

President - Cayla Guili

Exec. VP & Programming VP - Ava Pieter

Israel Affairs VP - Raquel Sokol

Religious Ed. VP - Yaira Spitzer-Tilchin

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Communications VP - Leah Green

Membership VP - Abby Jacobs

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Jr. USY Representative - Frankie Brown



Congregation B'nai Israel gratefully acknowledges the following donations

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Sybil and Nathan Miller in appreciation of their friendship, support, kindness and generosity

- Batia Swed

Nessim Albagli in honor of his years of work supporting the Men's Club.

- Perry Bridger

Dan and Shawna Schwartz for all their work on the amazing Virtual Gala

- Barbara Schwartz

Joel Kuperberg's birthday

- Sid and Judy Kuperberg

Neil Spingarn and Dvora Cyrlak for their help and friendship

- Regina Rachlin

Michael Bare

- Nessim Albagli

Mazel Tov Marc Goldin on a job well done

- David and Dalia Bromberg

To Earl and Sandy Stein, Mazel Tov on the birth of their first grandchild

- Mark and Sue Ann Cross

Mazel Tov to the new grandparents, Arnie and Nancy Raymon

- Mimi Goldstein

DONATIONS

Hassaan Rahsaad

Joel Bergman

SPEEDY RECOVERY

Nancy Raymon

- Mimi Goldstein

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Dov Lesel, brother-in-law of Rabbi

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- Ron and Francine Morrison

- Batia Swed

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- Carole Taieb & Andre Levy

ROSALIE WATTENBERG CAMP FUND

IN HONOR OF

The birth of Eden, granddaughter of Hayim and Miriam Ninyo

- Natalie and Mike Vishny

PAUL KAHN YOUTH IN ARTS FUND

IN HONOR OF

The marriage of Paul and Karen Brach

- Ruth Kahn

IN MEMORY OF

Frank Nathan, husband of Arlene

Nathan

- Arlene Nathan

PRESCHOOL FUND

IN HONOR OF

Mazel Tov to Jonathan Groner on

becoming a Bar Mitzvah

- Nancy and Carl Cedar

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

IN HONOR OF

Our grandson, Aaron Harel Smith, completing his first year of Hebrew school (5th grade)

- Gloria and Lewis Polin

Marc Goldin for all his hard work as CBI President.

- Lisa and David Siegel

Rachelle Sellen

IN MEMORY OF

Herbert Scheffler, husband of Marilyn

Scheffler and father of Marci Salmon

- Marilyn Scheffler

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Mary Katlen, mother of Arvin Katlen

Alta Schwartz, mother of Beth Katlen

- Arvin and Beth Katlen

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN HONOR OF

Rabbi Spitz facilitating and giving us support on the unveiling of the gravestone for Wolfe and Cecily Yudelman.

- Anne and Gavin Jonas

Rabbi Spitz's wonderful teachings of the Psalms that have kept us educated and connected.

- Suzy Levin Herrera

IN MEMORY OF

Dov Lesel, brother-in-law of Rabbi

Elie Spitz

- Shirley Lowy

Frances Cork, mother of Cynthia Cork

- Cynthia Cork and Michael Wolf

DANIEL ZEMBROSKY YOUTH IN ARTS FUND

IN HONOR OF

Rabbi Spitz, Amy Robinson Katz and Carl Cedar for all their ruach and teaching during CBI's streaming services. They have been a lifeline during this pandemic.

- Shelli Kastin and Ken Wilson

IN MEMORY OF

Gertrude Littman, mother of Steven Littman

- Steven Littman

Yahrzeit Contribution

MOTHER

Shirley Zembrosky

- Alan and Beverly Zembrosky

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cont. on next page

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MEN'S CLUB

FOREVER STUDENTS

July 25 at 10:15 AM | August 22 at 10:15 AM

Share your knowledge at one of our Forever Student events. Learning is important at any age.

Contact Steve Sommer at steve34612@gmail.com

HEARING MEN'S VOICES

A CBI Men's Club Series for Men

September 19 at 10:15 AM

Would you like to moderate a discussion?

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Men's Club Poker Nights

7 PM | July 11 and August 8





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Beth Elster | bethelster1@gmail.com | 714.730.9693
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER

Friday, July 2

5:30 PM Young Family Shabbat
6:00 PM Friday Night Service

Saturday, July 3

9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service
Parashat Pinchas
9:30 AM CBI Coastal

Friday, July 9

6:00 PM Friday Night Service

Saturday, July 10

9:30 AM Yism'chu
Parashat Matot-Masei

Friday, July 16

6:00 PM ShabbatHOME Friday Night

Saturday, July 17

9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service
Parashat Devarim
10:30 AM Junior Congregation

Friday, July 23

6:00 PM Shabbat Under the Stars

Saturday, July 24

9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service
Parashat Vaetchanan

Friday, July 30

6:00 PM Friday Night Service

Saturday, July 31

9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service
9:30 AM Prayersong
Parashat Eikev

Friday, August 6

5:30 PM Young Family Shabbat
6:30 PM Friday Night Service

Saturday, August 7

9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service –
Isaac Hershfeld Bar Mitzvah
9:30 AM CBI Coastal
Parashat Re'eh

Friday, August 13

6:00 PM Friday Night Service

Saturday, August 14

9:30 AM Yism'chu
Shoftim

Friday, August 20

6:00 PM ShabbatHOME Friday Night

Saturday, August 21

9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service –
Marcella Stahl Bat Mitzvah
10:30 AM Junior Congregation
Parashat Ki Teitzei

Friday, August 27

6:00 PM Shabbat Under the Stars

Saturday, August 28

9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service
Parashat Ki Tavo

Friday, September 3

6:00 PM USY Shabbat Club Service

Saturday, September 4

9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service
9:30 AM CBI Coastal
Parashat Nitzavim

Monday, September 6

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Tuesday, September 7

Rosh Hashanah Day 1

Wednesday, September 8

Rosh Hashanah Day 2

Friday, September 10

6:00 PM Friday Night Service

Saturday, September 11

9:30 AM Yism'chu
Parashat Vayeilech

Wednesday, September 15

Kol Nidre

Thursday, September 16

Yom Kippur
Yizkor

Friday, September 17

6:00 PM ShabbatHOME Friday Night

Saturday, September 18

9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service
Parashat Ha'azinu

Tuesday, September 21

Sukkot Day 1

Wednesday, September 22

Sukkot Day 2

Friday, September 24

6:00 PM Friday Night Service

Saturday, September 25

9:30 AM Chol Hamoed Sukkot

Tuesday, September 28

Shemini Atzeret
Yizkor
Erev Simchat Torah Celebration

Wednesday, September 29

Simchat Torah

Weekday Minyan

9:10 AM Sunday Mornings
(check website for schedule)
8:15 PM Wednesday Evenings
(check website for schedule)