

Congregation B'nai Israel

May
2010

Kehila

Iyar/Sivan
5770



"A land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey," (Deuteronomy 8:8).

Shavuot began as a harvest festival, however it also commemorates the revelation at Sinai and the giving of Torah. While Shavuot has few prescribed rituals associated with it, many people do stay up all night studying Torah. Other customs include eating dairy foods (cheesecake!) and reading the Book of Ruth.

Founded 1904 ~ Northampton ~ Massachusetts

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The CBI newsletter is published 11 times per year,
monthly except in July.

The next KEHILA is the June/July 2010 Issue

FIRM DEADLINE: MAY 16

**HELP US TO HELP YOU. PLEASE MAKE
EVERY EFFORT TO MEET THE DEADLINE.**

Submit entries in person or via email.

Pictures and ads should be
submitted in .jpg format

Congregation B'nai Israel
253 Prospect Street, Northampton MA 01060
413-584-3593 bnai.israel@verizon.net
www.cbinorthampton.org

3 CALENDAR

Save the Date

CBI'S 11TH ANNUAL GALA AUCTION & DESSERT BUFFET

Please join us for the 11th Annual Gala Auction and Dessert Buffet Extravaganza.

Tickets: \$25 at the door

Cash gift contributions of \$100 or more will receive two free tickets.

SUNDAY
MAY 2

6:30 - 9:30 pm



Bid on items including:

- ◆ Fabulous hotel and vacation stays
- ◆ Cultural events galore
- ◆ Restaurant Gift Certificates
- ◆ Bouquet of Flowers Every Week for Six Months
- ◆ A Serio's Market Soup and Sandwich Every Week for a Year
- ◆ Work of outstanding local artists and artisans

And hundreds more wonderful items both big and small!!

COMMUNITY SCHOLAR SERIES

Awakening the Heart: Mindfulness as a Jewish Practice

After Shira Chadasha Kabbalat Shabbat Service which begins at 7:00 pm

RABBI SHEILA WEINBERG

FRIDAY,
MAY 14

After services which begin at 7:00 pm

Over the last decade, the spiritual practice of mindfulness has found expression in a range of fields including health, psychology and education. In the Jewish world, mindfulness practice has led many people to approach Jewish spirituality and practice with renewed vigor and perspective.

Join us as Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg shares her spiritual path as encapsulated in her new book, "Surprisingly Happy: An Atypical Religious Memoir." "Surprisingly Happy" provides snapshots of Rabbi Weinberg's life, offering clues about her search to find God and carving a path for others to learn from her journey.

Join us again on Shabbat morning during Kiddush as Rabbi Justin David leads us in a short session of Jewish mindfulness meditation, after which we can thoughtfully reflect on our experience.

RABBI SHEILA PELTZ WEINBERG has gained a national reputation for teaching mindfulness in Jewish settings. She is the Rabbi Emerita of the Jewish Community of Amherst, which she served for 13 years. A life-long advocate for peace and justice, she is active in Rabbis for Human Rights, an international organization that gives voice to the Jewish search for justice.

Rabbi Weinberg is a co-founder and the Outreach Director of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality www.ijs-online.org, and leads workshops and retreats for Jewish professionals and social justice activists.





MAY 1 TOT SHABBAT

11:00 am

A lively Saturday morning program for 3 to 5 year-olds and their families, celebrating the beautiful aspects of Shabbat through songs, stories, dance and creative movement. Led by Peggy Walker.

MAY 1 SHABBAT FAMILY MINYAN

11:00 am

Join us for a creative interactive service featuring prayers, songs and stories for school-aged children, their parents and the community. Led by Deborah Bromberg Seltzer

MAY 8 LEV CHADASH (NEW HEART) MINYAN

9:45 am

Shabbat Mornings in the Library. Led by Rabbi Nancy Flam. Join us for a monthly Shabbat service that follows the deep structure of the Siddur, inviting us - through song, silence, conversation and meditation - to cultivate awareness and expression of gratitude, praise, yearning, and truth in our rich, Jewish tradition. We will experience the entire flow of a Shabbat service (including Torah reading, teaching and discussion), but with scaled-down liturgy. Come with the hope of renewing your heart and your connection to the Source of Life.

MAY 8 JUNIOR CONGREGATION

11:00 am

Monthly program with two concurrent groups. K-2nd grade and 3rd-5th grade, led this month by Marisha Futter and Jane Kaufman.

MAY 15 EMBODIED PRAYER SHABBAT SERVICE

9:30 am

Led by Deborah Jacobson and Deliah Rosel, D. Min. Joyfully enhance our connection with Infinite Divine Energy through enthusiastic chanting of traditional prayers, a twenty minute Shema/Amidah comprised of the gentle meditative movements and prayerful visualizations of L'Chaim Qigong and Torah reading with aliyah--- deepening our personal experience with God and our experience of YHVH as healing energy.

MAY 15 SHABBAT SING

11:00 am

Adults and children are welcome to sing a wide array of Jewish songs, from child-friendly melodies to complicated rounds. Led by Pam Schwartz and Joel Feldman. Held in CBI Library

Nourishing the Soul with Torah

INTERGENERATIONAL COMMUNITY SHAVUOT
CELEBRATION, DIALOGUE AND STUDY WITH

Rabbi Justin David
of CBI

Rabbi Riqi Kosovske
of Beit Ahavah

Tuesday, May 18

Please join us for this engaging evening of song, celebration and study with two rabbis and two communities. During this Shavuot evening we hope to have something for everyone!

6:00 pm ~ 7:00 pm

Family Shavuot Program with Eli Rogosa & Alison Morse - Making and Eating Pizza with discussion of ancient grain and threshing

7:00 pm ~ 7:30 pm

Blessings for new babies and brief, participatory and accessible evening service

7:30 pm ~ 8:00 pm

Family Program continues with Story of Ruth and ice-cream!

7:30 pm ~ 8:45 pm

Rabbinic dialogue and community conversation

8:45 pm ~ 9:00 pm

Cheesecake for everyone!

9:00 pm

Late evening study sessions

ALL ARE WELCOME

“The more Torah, the more Life.” Pirke 2:7

Major Funding for the Family Program provided by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation

6 CALENDAR

Save the Date

LAG B'OMER BONFIRE & CELEBRATION

Join us for Havdalah, Songs, Drumming and Stories with Aharon Skoglund, LGA teacher

S'mores, dessert and fun for all!!



SATURDAY
MAY 1

8:30-10:00 pm

Discussion: "From Rabbi Akiva to You: Daring to speak our Jewish Truth" with Shoshana Zonderman, family educator.

For more information: Alison Morse, Education Director, cbi.edudir@verizon.net or ext. 203

Major funding provided by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation

Please bring - flashlights, blanket or lawn chairs and a drum!

SUNDAY MORNING MINYAN

Please join our SUNDAY MORNING MINYAN— with light breakfast afterwards!!

Kaddish ourselves, to help create vibrant, collective and spiritual experiences. We will make every effort to help each person feel comfortable and grow in this experience. Tallitot and extra tefillin will be available.



SUNDAYS
MAY 2, 9, 16, 23
7:00 pm

Please join us— to participate in the spiritual practice of daily prayer, to connect to community, to learn and grow as a Jewish seeker, to support mourners saying Kaddish, to say

TECHIYAH/ REBIRTH

Be part of a new Adult Education Course taught by Rabbi Justin David and Rabbi Riqi Kosovske, held on Tuesday evenings in April, May and June.

A CONTEMPORARY
INTRODUCTION TO
JEWISH TRADITION

with
Rabbi Justin David
of CBI

&

Rabbi Riqi
Kosovske
of Beit Ahavah

- MAY 4 Spirituality & Activism Part I- Women of the Wall (Rabbi Riqi Kosovske)
- MAY 11 Spirituality & Activism Part II- Judaism and Global Crises: Tikkun Olam (Rabbi Justin David)
- MAY 18 SHAVUOT (no class- but come to a Shavuot Celebration!)
- MAY 25 Where Torah Comes From and Where It Goes (Rabbi Riqi Kosovske & Rabbi Justin David)
- JUNE 1 Gender & Judaism: A Category Unto It's Own (Rabbi Riqi Kosovske)
- JUNE 8 New/Old Jewish Spirituality- Zohar & Kabbalah (Rabbi Justin David)
- JUNE 15 "The World is Built on Kindess": Compassion & Social Responsibility (Rabbi Justin David)
- JUNE 22 The Last Word: Shomrei Adamah- Stewards of the Earth (Rabbi Riqi Kosovske & Rabbi Justin David)

TUESDAYS
7:30 pm

Held at CBI

Drop-ins welcome (sliding \$5-\$10 fee per class). Fees/Donations from these classes will support both CBI & BA Adult Education.



7 CALENDAR

Save the Date

SISTERHOOD SPRING BRUNCH & ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY
MAY 16
9:30 am



The flowers are in bloom,
the sun is out. It's time for the
**SISTERHOOD SPRING BRUNCH
& ANNUAL MEETING**

Held at the home of
Susan Mosler
45 Washington Ave in Northampton

All women of CBI are invited!

For more information or a ride,
contact Rina Cohan at 413-665-6731
or rcohan6168@aol.com.

Also, if you are interested in serving
on the Sisterhood Board, or know
someone who is, please contact
Michelle Kaskey at 586-6128 or
mkask@comcast.net.



KABBALAT SHABBAT FOR GRADUATING SENIORS

FRIDAY
MAY 7
6:00 pm

Join us on Friday evening, May 7th as
we honor our graduating High School
Seniors during Kabbalat Shabbat
Services.

Evening services at 6:00 pm will be
led by Rabbi David, accompanied by
David Weidenfeld on guitar.

During services, High School Grads
will share a favorite memory from
their years at CBI.

We look forward to greeting you at
this very special Kabbalat Shabbat
Service.



VALLEY JEWISH SENIORS

WEDNESDAY
MAY 12
12:30 pm

Luncheon with Guest Speaker,
CBI's Own Marcia Burick

"Tikkun Olam Travels"

We are delighted that our beloved
Marcia Burick, who has had a
distinguished career in public service,
will be sharing with us some of her
adventures in diplomacy and travels
around the world doing tikkun olam.
It promises to be a wonderful time
together. Do plan to come!

Lunch served at 12:30 pm

Guests are always welcome!!

Suggested Donation for Luncheon: \$5
Reservations would be appreciated.

To RSVP or if you need a ride, please
contact: Jane Trigere or Ken Schoen
(413) 665-0548

SHIRA CHADASHA KABBALAT SHABBAT

FRIDAY
MAY 14
7:00 pm

Led by Rabbi Justin David
with David Weidenfeld on guitar

Join us for a very special Kabbalat
Shabbat service.



We'll enjoy a beautiful, spirited and
musical celebration of Shabbat each
month together!

All are welcome!

Held in the CBI Library.

8 CALENDAR

Save the Date

HEVREI MITZVOT MEN'S CLUB

HEVREI MITZVOT MEETING begins
at 9:45 am at LGA

BREAKFAST with Bagels!

SUNDAY
MAY 16
9:45 am

Followed by Lecture at 10:45 am

Exodus in the Lens of Hasidic
Interpretation
with Rabbi Aryeh Wineman

Open to all (women welcome)

A journey through hasidic texts noting how hasidic teaching tended to retell and interpret the biblical account of the Exodus from Egypt, going beyond a literal understanding of that account to a more symbolic grasp of its meaning in a way that might speak to more contemporary knowledge and to our own lives.

For more information, contact David Weinberg at 533-1129 or email osprey@ospreylimited.com

SISTERHOOD BOOK CLUB

APRIL MEETING

Book: Story of a Marriage
by Andrew Greer

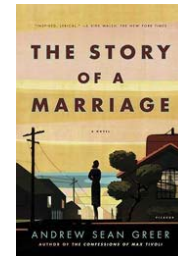
Date: Monday, May 17

Time: 7:30 pm

MONDAY
MAY 17
7:30 pm

Place: Home of Adele Steinberg
44 Washington Ave.,
Northampton
(413) 586-1488

All CBI women are welcome to join us for one meeting or many. Please call if you need directions or a ride.



Development Corporation for Israel

ISRAEL BONDS

Member FINRA, SIPC

SAVE THE DATE!!!!
as the
Western MA State of Israel Bonds

pays tribute to our own
Janet & Albert Chevan

at a
Cocktail Buffet
with guest speaker Dr. Michael Bar-Zohar
and special tribute to Betsy & Dick Gaberman

Tuesday, June 8, 2010
5:30 P.M.
at Chez Josef in Agawam

Invitation to follow
For information call the Israel Bonds office at
800-916-1918

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DATES OF NOTE

- MAY 7: Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Honoring Graduating High School
Seniors, 6:00 pm
- MAY 18: No Religious School
Erev Shavuot Family Services
(More information on pg 6)
- MAY 19: No Religious School
Shavuot
- MAY 20: No Religious School
Shavuot
- MAY 23: Last Day of Religious School
Potluck Picnic



Torah as Nourishment

I have been thinking a lot lately about how our lives are affected by the proliferation of digital media and the ways in which we download everything from recipes to "friends" and "community." On the one hand, I'm afraid that we are headed increasingly toward atomization and isolation, even as the world seems to open up for us. However, no one can deny the almost limitless opportunities for connection that can be had at the click of a mouse.

Rabbi Justin David

All the more reason to join us on Shavuot, as we join with Beit Ahavah for an evening of celebration, study and reflection on the topic of "Torah as Nourishment." The study of Torah, both the written Torah and its later interpretations and elaborations, provides both a refuge for the soul as well as the possibility of connection. On this very special evening, I am privileged to collaborate with Rabbi Riqi Kosovske as we present texts, facilitate discussion and ask questions of each other.

Our hope this Shavuot is to have something for everyone. We begin our evening with a potluck dinner at 6:00 pm for families with young children (all are welcome), that will coincide with a special family program and lead into a participatory service highlighting a blessing for babies and toddlers. At 7:30 pm, we begin our study with a rabbinic dialogue between myself and Rabbi Kosovske, followed by obligatory cheesecake, and study sessions late into the evening.

Of course, the structure of the evening is intended to open up the topic of how study nourishes us. In Pirke Avot, which can be found at the back of our Sim Shalom Siddur (prayerbook), the rabbis say two things: "If there is no bread, there is no Torah," and also, "The more Torah, the more life." It is hard to know exactly what these enigmatic statements mean. But speaking personally, I believe they are driving at an experience of connecting with the wisdom of our tradition in such a way that inspires us to build lives of ongoing renewal through righteous action. How that occurs may appear different to each of us, but there is probably more we have in common than we think.

Through gathering in community, celebrating together, engaging in earnest conversation about ultimate issues, I hope that we find inspiration for ourselves as well as discover the kind of connection we all seek.

B'shalom,

Rabbi Justin David

Adventures in Community Gardening

We were inspired by the idea of growing and making our own food after helping Eli Rogosa build the matzah oven for Passover in late March, and we recently decided that we wanted to start our own garden to grow vegetables and wheat.

Over the last week or so, the children from Kitah Parpar and Kitah Chamaniot have been busy digging and preparing the soil for the growing season. Gardening has proven to be fun, interesting and hard work. Both classrooms have studied archaeology and ancient Israel this year, and the children were delighted to find "artifacts," bricks and more, under the ground. The children have been asking lots of great questions about how these things became buried.

If we are successful farmers, we might even have a crop to work with when school reopens!



Getting started....



As we like to say at Gan Keshet,
"Teamwork makes the dream work!"



An artifact!



Removing some dirt



Using our gardening tools

Volunteer Opportunities at CBI

There are many ways to volunteer and become involved at CBI. The co-presidents, vice-president and secretary are stepping down as of June 30 and we need people to run for these positions. These are challenging and rewarding jobs, which contribute greatly to our community.

We have many active committees, nearly all of which would welcome new members. The Kehilah and the CBI web site list the committees and their chairs. These committees span a range of interests, from the Ritual Committee, which involves you in Judaism, to Building and Grounds, which involves you in bricks and mortar.

.....
Co-Presidents
Larry Hott & Susan Mosler

You can run for a position on the board of directors. Most board members find the work deeply rewarding. In fact, several congregants have served more than twenty-year terms on the board. Although nominations for at-large board member positions are closed for the next year, you can ask the next president(s) for a board appointment or wait for next year to run for a position.

There are also many opportunities to volunteer for specific tasks at CBI, such as organizing the community seder, setting up the sukkah, and working at the auction.

If you are interested in knowing more about a position on the board of directors please contact Richard Fein, Chair of the Nominating Committee. If you would like to volunteer in any capacity please contact Dorothy Nemetz, our volunteer coordinator. Their contact information is below.

Richard Fein, rfein@som.umass.edu, 413-256-1256

Dorothy Nemetz, djnemetz@aol.com, 413-586-2733

B'Shalom,

Larry Hott and Susan Mosler
CBI Co-Presidents

12 CALENDAR

Month of May

MAY 1	Saturday	9:30 am	SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE MATTHEW STEINBERG BAR MITZVAH <i>Parashat Emor</i>
		11:00 am	TOT SHABBAT WITH PEGGY WALKER
		11:00 am	SHABBAT FAMILY MINYAN
		8:30 pm	LAG B'OMER BONFIRE & CELEBRATION (See page 6)
MAY 2	Sunday	8:35 pm	SHABBAT ENDS
		9:15 am	SUNDAY MORNING MINYAN
		6:30 pm	CBI'S 11TH ANNUAL GALA AUCTION & DESSERT BUFFET (See page 3)
MAY 4	Tuesday	12:15 pm	TUESDAY TEXT STUDY WITH RABBI DAVID
		7:30 pm	TECHIYAH/ REBIRTH: AN INTRODUCTION TO CONTEMPORARY JEWISH TRADITION WITH RABBI DAVID & RABBI KOSOVSKA (See page 6)
MAY 6	Thursday	8:00 am	LECHA DUMIYAH TEHILLA Led by Rabbi Nancy Flam & Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg
MAY 7	Friday	6:00 pm	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE HONORING 2010 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES
		7:38 pm	SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING
MAY 8	Saturday	9:30 am	SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE <i>Parashat B'har-B'hukkotai</i>
		10:00 am	LEV CHADASH (NEW HEART) MINYAN LED BY RABBI NANCY FLAM
		11:00 am	JUNIOR CONGREGATION
		8:44 pm	SHABBAT ENDS
MAY 9	Sunday	9:15 am	SUNDAY MORNING MINYAN
MAY 11	Tuesday	12:15 pm	TUESDAY TEXT STUDY WITH RABBI DAVID
		7:30 pm	TECHIYAH/ REBIRTH: ADULT ED CLASS (See page 6)
MAY 13	Thursday	8:00 am	LECHA DUMIYAH TEHILLA Led by Rabbi Nancy Flam & Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg
MAY 14	Friday	7:00 pm	SHIRA CHADASHA KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE (See page 7)
		After Service	COMMUNITY SCHOLARS SERIES WITH RABBI SHEILA PELTZ WEINBERG (See page 3)
		7:45 pm	SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING

13 CALENDAR

Month of May

MAY 15	Saturday	9:30 am	SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE MATTHEW EPSTEIN BAR MITZVAH <i>Parashat B'midbar</i>
		9:45 am	EMBODIED PRAYER SHABBAT SERVICE
		After Kiddush	JEWISH MINDFULNESS MEDITATION WITH RABBI JUSTIN DAVID (See page 3)
		8:53 pm	SHABBAT ENDS
MAY 16	Sunday	9:15 am	SUNDAY MORNING MINYAN
		9:30 am	SISTERHOOD ANNUAL MEETING & SPRING BRUNCH (See page 7)
		9:45 am	HEVREI MITZVOT MEN'S CLUB (See page 8)
		10:45 am	LECTURE BY RABBI ARYEH WINEMAN (See page 8)
MAY 18	Tuesday	12:15 pm	TUESDAY TEXT STUDY WITH RABBI DAVID
		6:00 pm	EREV SHAVUOT CELEBRATION (See page 5)
		7:49 pm	EREV SHAVUOT CANDLE LIGHTING
MAY 19	Wednesday		SHAVUOT: CBI OFFICE CLOSED
MAY 20	Thursday		SHAVUOT: CBI OFFICE CLOSED
		8:59 pm	SHAVUOT ENDS
MAY 21	Friday	6:00 pm	KABBALAT SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE
		7:52 pm	SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING
MAY 22	Saturday	9:30 am	SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE REBECCA HOWARD BAT MITZVAH <i>Parashat Naso</i>
		9:01 pm	SHABBAT ENDS
MAY 23	Sunday	9:15 am	SUNDAY MORNING MINYAN
MAY 25	Tuesday	12:15 pm	TUESDAY TEXT STUDY WITH RABBI DAVID
		7:30 pm	TECHIYAH/ REBIRTH: ADULT ED CLASS
		7:30 pm	CBI BOARD MEETING
MAY 27	Thursday	8:00 am	LECHA DUMIYAH TEHILLA Led by Rabbi Nancy Flam & Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg
MAY 28	Friday	6:00 pm	KABBALAT SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE
		7:59 pm	SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING
MAY 29	Saturday	9:30 am	SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE SAM RANDALL BAR MITZVAH <i>Parashat B'ha-a lot'kha</i>
		9:08 pm	SHABBAT ENDS
MAY 31	Monday		MEMORIAL DAY: CBI OFFICE CLOSED

**MATTHEW
STEINBERG
BAR MITZVAH
MAY 1, 2010**



Son of Peter
Steinberg & Ellen
Frank

My name is Matthew Steinberg. I am in the seventh grade at the Williston Northampton School.

My interests include baseball, reading, theater, and music. I am an avid Mets fan, and some people pretend to make fun of me for that, but I know it's all in good fun.

I moved up here with my family from New York almost six years ago. I spent second through fifth grades at Jackson Street School, followed by one year at JFK Middle School, before starting at Williston last fall.

My Bar Mitzvah project will involve helping out in the classrooms at Jackson Street School, where my two younger brothers go. I also hope to volunteer this summer at Forbes Library, where I would read books to younger children.

I would like to thank Amy Meltzer for tutoring me to prepare me for this special day, and Rabbi Justin David for helping me with my D'var Torah.

I would also like to thank my parents for raising me to appreciate the values of life, learning, and acceptance, and for helping me become the person I am today.



**MATTHEW
EPSTEIN
BAR MITZVAH
MAY 15, 2010**



Son of Deborah &
Keith Epstein

My name is Matt Epstein. I am thirteen years old and in the 7th grade at JFK Middle School in Florence. I started with religious school at CBI in first grade and this year I have been Studying for my Bar Mitzvah with my tutor Ari. I went to Ryan Road School as well from Kindergarten until fifth grade.

My favorite activities to do in my free time are sports. I play Baseball, Basketball, and I Ski. My favorite sport is Baseball, which I have been playing since I was 4. I play first base and I pitch.

For my Bar Mitzvah project, I am going to be volunteering at a Life is Good Festival. The Life is Good Festivals are fun, and they help to raise money for the Life is Good Foundation, which raises money for children facing life threatening conditions. I think that helping children with life threatening conditions is a great thing to do, because children who have faced challenges which are unimaginable to most of us, deserve things that can bring some joy in their lives. This is where the Life is Good Foundation comes in.

I have really enjoyed my time working with Rabbi Justin David, and my tutor Ari Reis, and I would like to thank both of them for taking the time and interest to help me prepare and be ready for my Bar Mitzvah. I would also like to thank both my parents and grandparents for helping me to be ready. I feel lucky that I get to have a Bar Mitzvah, because not everyone has the opportunity to do so.

REBECCA HOWARD
BAT MITZVAH
MAY 22, 2010



Hi, my name is Rebecca Howard. I am 13 years old and am in 7th grade at JFK Middle School. I went to Jackson Street Elementary School where I learned the importance of being accepting, kind, caring and open-minded. My years there with Ms. Agna and all of my teachers made a big impact on my life. I started Hebrew school here at CBI in 5th grade and was welcomed into the class. I made a lot of friends within that small, special community and even more when the LGA class joined us this year.

Aside from hanging out with friends and family, I love to dance, and have been doing ballet and performing for almost my whole life. I've also always loved and cared about animals. For my Bat Mitzvah project I am working to raise awareness about animal tested cosmetics and household products. I think this is important because animals have no voices of their own and we need to make sure they are not being treated cruelly.

I am glad that I made the choice to become a Bat Mitzvah and am proud of what I have learned and accomplished. Bat Mitzvah means daughter of mitzvah, and to me that is what becoming one is all about - trying to make the world a better place.

Daughter of Jennifer
& Willie Howard



SAM RANDALL
BAR MITZVAH
MAY 29, 2010



My name is Sam Randall. I am in the Seventh grade at Amherst Regional Middle School. I am 13 years old. I went to Solomon Schechter/LGA for 6 years. I went to the Kitah Zayin Hebrew School for this year.

I have been playing soccer since I was five and baseball since I was seven. Right now, I am in the heart of the baseball season. I play left and right field on the Phillies team in Amherst's Babe Ruth League. I have also been playing electric bass guitar for a year and a half.

For my Bar Mitzvah project, I volunteer at the Amherst Survival Center. I bring food out to the clients, unload trucks, wash dishes, and other tasks. I started doing this because I needed a Bar Mitzvah project. But after I started volunteering, I became more comfortable and started having conversations with the clients. I started to really like the community there. I plan to continue volunteering at the Amherst Survival Center after my Bar Mitzvah.

I feel it is important for me to have a Bar Mitzvah because it marks the completion of my education of Judaism that I began at LGA. I also see it as the beginning of belonging to a larger Jewish community.

Son of Becky Miller
& Tom Randall

I would like to thank my parents for urging me on, Neil Zagorin for being a really awesome tutor, and Rabbi Justin David for helping me with my D'var Torah.

**Board Meeting
March 16, 2010**

Present: Tom Arnold, Jeff Caplan, Janet W. Chevan, Erin Nunes Cooper, John Eckstein, Barry Federman, Larry Hott, John Joelson, Susan Mosler, Jim Sagalyn, Shelley Schieffelin, Jane Trigere, Rabbi Justin David, Mark Brumberg, Lou Davis, Bruce Coates-Finke, Neil Kudler, Tami Fields, and David Cohen

Regrets: Robin Maltz, Norbert Goldfield, Dorothy Nemetz, Deborah Penzias, Janis Levy

Guests: Wendy Stein

1. Rabbi's D'var Torah:

Rabbi Justin David spoke about the Mishkan as a powerful metaphor for the synagogue & encouraged everyone to think of CBI in this way.

- We are a welcoming, synagogue
- Purim baskets were a great success
- We can (of course) do more
- The second night CBI / Beit Ahavah will be family friendly, with something for everyone.

The Board Member - New Member Shabbat dinner effort did not go as planned. Some groups had wonderful experiences, but some board members did not participate. A second date will be chosen for board members to invite new members to their homes. Please be in touch if you cannot do this. Rabbi-Board communication is critical.

2. Minutes:

Erin Cooper is taking over the duties of the Secretary from Robin Maltz, and will continue to take meeting minutes for the remainder of this board cycle.

Motion: Approve minutes from the January 2010 meeting.

All in favor. Passed.

3. Synagogue Director's Report:

Janis Levy reports:

We need 2 people for the auction committee

New Membership Applications:

- Kate Deviny
- Jennifer Taub, Michael Kuch & children
- David Marlin, Joanna Grand & children
- Andrew Sirulnik, Tamara Kupfer & children

Resignations:

- Robin Maltz (moving to NYC) - Robin sent a letter, which was read to the board.

Motion: All in favor of approving new members

All in favor. Passed

Fundraising:

- Our budget for fundraising is \$87,000.00 (min.)
- To date, we have raised \$64,000.00 and need to raise \$23,000.00 more
- The Auction typically brings in \$25-35,000.00 dollars

We need help and volunteers for the auction. We should meet our goal if the auction is as successful as past years. Most of the solicitation work is in progress. Leslie has agreed to be the auctioneer. The additional volunteers are needed for organizing event itself.

Discussion:

With her permission, the board would like to share Robin's letter with the community. Larry or Susan will contact her to ask permission. There should be a place for CBI testimonials: Lou will put a testimonial page on the website. Vote of appreciation: for Robin Maltz. Board members are contributing towards a gift.

4. Board cycle

There are currently no candidates for many of the officer positions. Bill Jolly and Richard Fein are trying to draft candidates. If there are no candidates for officer positions, per our bylaws, the board would need to choose positions among us.

- Note: If Tuesday night meetings impact a candidate's ability to serve on the board, we have the option to change our meeting days and times.
- We do have liability insurance for board members.
- Any nominations can be sent to Bill Jolly and Richard Fein.

5. LGA-Gan Keshet Process

David Cohen reports:

There is now a working group of 12 people from CBI, LGA, and some from both organizations. The

group's goal is still to bring a skeleton plan for joint preschool programming to both boards in June 2010.

- September 2011 target date to open
- Finance, philosophy, schedule, & space, still need to be worked out
- Meredith Dragon from the Jewish Federation is participating in discussions
- New development: The Jewish Community of Amherst also wants to open a preschool. The JCA approached JCC and LGA asking for help. The JCA has been invited to be observers to the Gan Keshet / LGA process.
- The process is open
- The group is dedicated to an outline by June 2010
- Gan Keshet has had many years of success. There is high customer "satisfaction". This effort in no way reflects problems with Gan Keshet: it is an effort to preserve what success we have and add to it.
- Potentially we can meet more needs in the community with joint programming.

Discussion:

- This is a potential agenda item for board retreat.
- How can the board help? The process is open, and a review of the skeleton plan for the June board meeting is our next step.
- The timeline with a target open date in September 2011 is based on our demographics: there is a significant population of current 2 year olds who will be age appropriate at that time.

Thank You, David and all others involved for taking this on.

6. Personnel Committee Report:

Jeff Caplan reports:

The Education Director Search is ongoing. One candidate was here on Sunday and will be returning on Saturday. Rabbi Rachel Rembrandt met with the committee for over hour, taught a short lesson in the religious school, met again with the committee, and then attended a lunch meeting. She is returning on Shabbat and will participate in and lead a portion of family sing. Alison Morse has applied for the position. As a

candidate, she will go through the same process beginning Sunday March 28th.

- Other people being considered
- An E-mail message was sent out informing the congregation of search schedule and opportunities to meet the candidates.
- The Job description has been posted on our web site for some time.
- The committee would like to finish the process as soon as possible in fairness to all applicants, while giving appropriate consideration.

7. Demographic and Attitudinal Surveys:

Lou Davis reports:

Lou has over 100 questions drafted. The draft included input from some committees and members, and now he needs more input. The draft survey will be sent to all board members with instructions to go through the questions and send comments. This will be discussed at the retreat. Goals of survey were not previously stated, but the working goal is to use the information to determine as a congregation: What changes (if any) do we want to make? The survey should give us information we need to make decisions that better meet the needs of our community. Board members should consider this intent when reviewing the survey.

8. Sanctuary Reconfiguration:

Mark Brumberg reports:

There is a meeting tomorrow morning and the committee will report at the next board meeting.

9. LGA / CBI maintenance

We are working on a plan to shift to a full time custodian that both organizations will share.

- This will be in our next budget
- The plan will also have coverage on weekends and evenings
- The group is still determining the organizational structure and which organization the full time custodian will primarily report to.
- The plan will provide better coverage and have a small savings.

10. Dues and Assessment Motion to Expire memberships:

Review of our membership expiration policy: According to our revised BDA process, after trying to contact the members, and after receiving no response, the Dues and Assessment committee brings those members up for memberships to expire. If there is a response to any of CBI's efforts to contact members, (mail, phone, E-mail), then the expiration process stops. If memberships expire, they can reapply for membership at any time.

- 2 members have not paid anything in all of 2009
- Notices were sent by mail, phone, and E-mail.
- No responses were received throughout 15 months of attempts to contact them.

Motion: Motion to expire all memberships as recommended by the dues and assessment committee.

All in favor. Passed

11. Board Retreat plans:

Tom Arnold, Neil Kudler, Bruce Finke, Justin David, John Todd, & Lou Davis are on the retreat planning committee.

April 11th at Mount Holyoke College, in the same room and setup as last fall.

The room is reserved from 9-5.

The agenda is not finalized. This retreat will use an internal facilitator, and Neil Kudler has volunteered to do this. Thank you to Neil.

The Administrative Task Force will have preliminary report for the retreat. All committee members and staff will be invited to come. It will be the 1st agenda item so that non-board members can leave after that topic is concluded.

Discussion:

How do we maintain our visioning process? This is our 3rd retreat ever, and it is appropriate to discuss how we are utilizing retreat and how we share our process with the community

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Erin Nunes Cooper

Thank You

Thank you to all who donated to make it possible for CBI to buy a complete set of the new High Holiday Prayer Books (Mahzor). And to those who helped us box and ship our old ones to three different synagogues around the country (California, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts).

Ken Schoen
Alan Singer
Aryeh Wineman
David Weinberg
David Fradkin
Scott Barton
Ron Ackerman
Noah & Margaret Hopkins

TUESDAY TEXT STUDY

WITH RABBI JUSTIN DAVID

Join us weekly, or as often as you can, for informal study of Jewish texts and lively discussion.

Held in the library at CBI every Tuesday.
From 12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

Registration is not required and there is no charge.



ANNUAL FUND

Contribution from Anna Basora

Contribution from Laura Seftel

To Jan Levy & family. Our sincere condolences on the death of your mother. From Shelley Steuer & Jeff Korff

To Judy Leeds & family. Our heartfelt condolences to you and your family on the death of your mother. From Shelley Steuer & Jeff Korff

In memory of Henry Rosenberg's sister, Sandy Shmookler. From Ricki Kantrowitz & Alex Cohen

To Henry Rosenberg. In memory of your sister, Sandy Shmookler. From Ann Marcus

To Gaby Blaustein and Danny Blaustein. In memory of Judy Blaustein. From Leslie Lazar & family

EDUCATION FUND

To Gabrielle Blaustein. In loving memory of my friend and mentor, Judy Blaustein. She will be remembered. From Joan Schaffer & Alan Berkenwald

HEVREI MITZVOT FUND

In honor of the wonderful deeds of Ron Ackerman. From Ken Schoen & Jane Trigere

In honor of Noah and Margaret Hopkins. From Ken Schoen & Jane Trigere

In honor of the marriage of Stephan Wurmbrand and Judy Herrell. From Ken Schoen & Jane Trigere

In honor of Marcia Burick and the Darfur Action Committee. From Ken Schoen & Jane Trigere

In remembrance of my brother, William Sachs. From Howard Sachs

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Contribution from Gabrielle Blaustein

Contribution from Beverly Park

To Rabbi David. Thank you for leading the deeply meaningful shiva minyan after Henry's sister died. From Henry Rosenberg & Katie Hicks

To Rabbi David. Thank you for blessing Pat's first aliyah. From Jan Hackman & Pat Votava

SISTERHOOD ALL OCCASION FUND

To Jan Levy. Our condolences on the loss of your beloved mother. From Vera & Laurie Wishnow

To the Balin/Sharpe Family. In honor of your son's Bar Mitzvah. Mazel Tov! From Vera & Laurie Wishnow

To Henry Rosenberg. Our condolences on the loss of your beloved sister. Lovingly, Ron Ackerman & Cleo Gorman

To Judy Leeds on the loss of your mother. From Cleo Gorman & Ron Ackerman

To Henry Rosenberg. My deepest sympathy on the loss of your beloved sister. From Sari Merrill

KURIAN KIDDUSH FUND

In memory of Jan Levy's mom, Rosa. From Bri & Marc Maier

To Jan Levy. In loving memory of your mother, Rosa. From Joan Schaffer & Alan Berkenwald

In memory of Janis Levy's mother, Rosa Levy. From Ricki Kantrowitz & Alex Cohen

To Erica Kates. In memory of your grandparents. From Debbie Penzias, Cynthia Roberts & Sarah.

To Jan Levy. Sending you our deepest sympathy on the loss of your mother, Rosa. From the Hack-Chabot family

In honor of the marriage of Isaac & Naomi Fleisher on March 28, 2010 in Tarrytown, N.Y. From Peggy Fiddler & Nick Fleisher

TIKKUN OLAM FUND

Contribution from Marcia Burick

To Henry Rosenberg. In memory of your sister, Sandy. From Joan Schaffer & Alan Berkenwald

To Henry Rosenberg. In memory of your sister, Sandy Smookler. From Sara Weinberg & Mordechai Kamel

VALLEY JEWISH SENIORS

In memory of Judith Blaustein. From Ricki Kantrowitz & Alex Cohen

MAY 1/ IYAR 17
Ilse Stein
Walter Stern
Isaac Tenenbaum

MAY 2/ IYAR 18
Philip Zeller

MAY 3/ IYAR 19
Louis Keehn

MAY 4/ IYAR 20
Abraham Midenberg
Beatrice Miliefsky

MAY 5/ IYAR 21
Rabbi Samuel Burick
Nathan Gould
Moe Ronis

MAY 6/ IYAR 22
Stanley Sherman

MAY 7/ IYAR 23
Mark Wetzler

MAY 8/ IYAR 24
Steven Goldstein
Frieda August Siegel *

MAY 10/ IYAR 26
Abraham Levy

MAY 11/ IYAR 27
Bessie Alberts *
Josephine Gould
Manfred Stein

MAY 12/ IYAR 28
Morris Greenfield *
Manuel Lester
Melvin Plotkin *

MAY 13/ IYAR 29
Max Levine

MAY 14/ SIVAN 1
William Joseph
Simon Perlmutter
Dora Weinstein *
Rose Wishnow

MAY 16/ SIVAN 3
Irving Parmett
Henry Prouser
Adolph Steuer
Benjamin Udes

MAY 17/ SIVAN 4
Peggy Gilbert
Yetta Samuelson

MAY 18/ SIVAN 5
Milton Black

MAY 19/ SIVAN 6
Maurice M. Cohen
Rose Cohen

MAY 20/ SIVAN 7
Sarah Smith

MAY 21/ SIVAN 8
Lilian August *
William Steiner

MAY 22/ SIVAN 9
Jerome Atkins
Maurice Gerson Ginzberg
Jerome Plaskow

MAY 23/ SIVAN 10
Samson Florin
Hans Rosenberg

MAY 24/ SIVAN 11
Isaac George Berkman
Murray Mednicoff
Ernest Metzger

MAY 25/ SIVAN 12
Israel Cohen
Claire Kates
Morris Taylor

MAY 26/ SIVAN 13
Dirk Buijs
Hiram Prouser
Irv Tabachnick

MAY 27/ SIVAN 14
Jennie August *

MAY 28/ SIVAN 15
David Freeman
Pearl Herman

MAY 29/ SIVAN 16
Suzanne Delamater

MAY 30/ SIVAN 17
Moshe Barnoon
David Le Noury

MAY 31/ SIVAN 18
Joseph Nemetz

JUNE 1/ SIVAN 19
Ruth Vogel

JUNE 2/ SIVAN 20
N. Meyer Baker
Ted Bender
Harriett Doe

JUNE 3/ SIVAN 21
Aaron Isgur
Flora Slonim
Betti Sternberg
Stanley Weiss

* Denotes plaque on Yahrzeit Board

JUNE 4/ SIVAN 22

Myer Brody
Anne Brown
Sara Rosenthal

JUNE 5/ SIVAN 23

J. George August
Ann E. August *
Diane Raymond

JUNE 6/ SIVAN 24

Irving S. Fagerson
Albert Prouser
Louis Rabin

JUNE 7/ SIVAN 25

Johanna Callenbach
Fannie Weiss*

JUNE 9/ SIVAN 27

Miriam Zeller

JUNE 10/ SIVAN 28

Sylvia Felton

JUNE 11/ SIVAN 29

Sara Brown
Sophie L. Schneider

JUNE 12/ SIVAN 30

Bertha Feinblatt
Cesia Swing *

JUNE 14/ TAMMUZ 2

Sarah Baker

JUNE 15/ TAMMUZ 3

Izador Gottesman
David Prouser

JUNE 18/ TAMMUZ 6

Rachel Geilich
Ida Molly Goldstein
Doris Levin

JUNE 19/ TAMMUZ 7

Birdie Zirinsky

JUNE 20/ TAMMUZ 8

Robert Federman*
Edward Haskell
Sidney Michelman

JUNE 21/ TAMMUZ 9

Rheba Seaver

JUNE 24/ TAMMUZ 12

Anne Neugeboren

JUNE 25/ TAMMUZ 13

Edna Goldner

JUNE 26/ TAMMUZ 14

Anne Haskell-Landell

JUNE 29/ TAMMUZ 17

Ruth Blau
Harry Rothenberg

JUNE 30/ TAMMUZ 18

Irving Glasser

In the Valley

READINGS AT SCHOEN BOOKS

Schoen Books is hosting readings on Sunday, May 2nd by Alex Epstein and Sunday, May 16th at 7 pm by Joshua Cohen and Justin Taylor at the Old Firehouse at 7 Sugarloaf Street in South Deerfield. The readings are free and all are welcome.

Alex Epstein, author of *Blue Has No South* (Clockroot Books, 2010). He is an Israeli writer born in Russia. Here are some comments about his work: "The short texts of Alex Epstein virtuously echo the great tradition of world literature in a truly original manner, as a tension between the classical and the intuitively improvised creates in the reader's mind the literary equivalent of a cross between Mozart and Miles Davis."—Etgar Keret

Joshua Cohen's *WITZ*, an epic novel of the last Jew, just came out from Dalkey Archive Press. Cohen is the author of a number of novels and collections of stories, including *A Heaven of Others* and *Aleph-Bet: An Alphabet for the Perplexed*. He writes regularly for *The Forward*.

Justin Taylor's debut collection of stories, *EVERYTHING HERE IS THE BEST THING EVER*, has received rave reviews from *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Bookforum*, and *Oxford American*, among others. Taylor edited *The Apocalypse Reader* and co-edits *The Agriculture Reader*.



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Jewish Safety Net 1-413-582-6790
(local resources, referrals, & advocacy at Jewish Family Services)

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Janet Fraidstern, Barbara Goldstein,
Ruth Katzner (chair), Gail Kielson, Jane Trigere

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- isolating partner from family and friends

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AESTHETICS FUND

Funds will be used to beautify the synagogue. *Please send donations to CBI.*

ANNUAL FUND

Funds will be used for Synagogue operating, building and programming needs. This fund accepts donations as well as enhanced dues. *Please send donations to CBI.*

BIKKUR HOLIM FUND

Donations for this fund are used for gifts from the whole congregation for members of the congregation who are fighting illness. *Checks may be made payable to CBI with Bikkur Holim in the memo line.*

**DANIEL & SHIRLEY LEVIN
EDUCATION FUND**

Money will assist qualified families with Religious School Tuition. *Checks made payable to Levin Education Fund should be mailed to CBI.*

DIVINE FUND

An endowment used to attract and retain outstanding religious school educators for our Religious School. *Please send donations to CBI.*

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Donations will be used to support the work of the CBI Task Force. *Please send contributions to CBI with Domestic Violence in the memo line*

EDUCATION FUND

Donations help support all educational activities and programs for children and adults at CBI. *Please send donations to CBI.*

ENDOWMENT FUND

Minimum Contribution is \$5.00. A \$600 contribution or more is necessary for a plaque to be affixed in the main lobby. Principle stays intact; interest earned is used to defray general operations of the synagogue. *Please send donations to CBI.*

HEVREI MITZVOT FUND

Funds used towards gemilut hasadim, to honor Bar and Bat Mitzvot, and fund worthy endeavors. *Please send donations to CBI.*

THE ISRAEL FUND

Established by the Marmor family. Funds used to support CBI sponsored trips to Israel, Yom Ha'atzmaut events and other activities in celebration of Israel. *Please send donations to CBI.*

JEWISH LIVING FUND

Fund provides for programming to celebrate and promote the practice of Judaism. *Please send donations to CBI.*

KITCHEN FUND

Donations for this fund will be used for purchases and maintenance of CBI's Kosher Kitchen. *Please send donations to CBI*

LANDSCAPE FUND

Fund used to beautify and maintain synagogue grounds. *Please send donations to CBI.*

**LEONARD AND BERNICE ALBERTS
PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

\$5.00 minimum contribution. Fund assists qualified families with Preschool tuition. *Please send donations to CBI.*

LIBRARY FUND

Money in this fund will go towards the purchase of CBI library books. *Please send donations to CBI.*

MAHZOR LEV SHALEM FUND

Funds will be used to purchase the new High Holiday Mahzor from the Rabbinical Assembly. Contributions of \$25 for each Mahzor. *Please send donations to CBI with "New Mahzor" in the memo line.*

PRESCHOOL EDUCATION FUND

Money from this fund will go to the preschool for equipment and teaching materials. *Make checks payable to Gan Keshet and mail to CBI.*

PULPIT FUND

Funds used to procure necessary items that are not covered by the operating budget. These funds will be used to enhance our services. *Please send donations to CBI.*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND *Please send donations to CBI.***SANDRA GOLDSMITH ENDOWMENT FUND**

Donations are used to endow activities for Tikkun Olam. *Please send donations to CBI.*

**SAM & MILDRED WOLFE BAR/BAT
MITZVAH FUND**

All students studying for Bar/Bat Mitzvah require a private tutor. This fund offsets tutoring costs for families. We encourage all families, friends, and relatives to contribute. *Minimum contribution is \$3.00. Make checks payable to the Sam & Mildred Wolfe Fund, mail to Beth Goldstein, 43 Fort Hill Terrace, Northampton, MA 01060*

SHABBAT CHILD CARE FUND

Money from this fund will go towards providing quality child care to all who need it (at no charge) during Shabbat services. *Please send donations to CBI.*

SISTERHOOD ALL OCCASION FUND

Minimum contribution is \$5.00. Money is used for specific synagogue needs voted upon by the Sisterhood membership. Mail checks made payable to CBI Sisterhood to *Harriet Weinroth, 100 Bassett Brook Dr. Apt 102 Easthampton, MA 01027 (527-3613)*. A card will be mailed for any occasion.

SUE KURIAN KIDDUSH FUND

Donations will be used to enhance our Shabbat services with festive Kiddushim. *Please send donations to CBI.*

TIKKUN OLAM FUND

Funds are used to benefit programs that help people in need, in the Northampton - Amherst area, in Israel, and occasionally when catastrophes strike in other parts of the world. *Please send donations to CBI.*

TORAH CHAI FUND

Donations to this fund assist the restoration and repair of Congregation B'nai Israel's existing Torah scrolls, and have made possible the purchase of a new Torah. *Please send donations to CBI.*

TZEDAKAH FUND

Fund for engaging in acts of tzedakah (charity and generosity) for the benefit of CBI members. *Please send donations to CBI*

VALLEY JEWISH SENIORS

Fund to help support seniors' activities through CBI. *Please send donations to CBI.*

WOMEN'S FUND

The CBI Women's Fund is for the purpose of helping CBI Women Members who are in dire financial need. To make a donation to the CBI Women's Fund, make your check out to B'nai Israel Sisterhood and indicate that it is for the Women's Fund. Mail the check to Harriet Weinroth, 100 Bassett Brook Dr. Apt 102 Easthampton, MA 01027 (527-3613). *Minimum donation of \$5.00.*

YOUTH FUND

Donations will be used to help fund activities for our youth programs. *Please send donations to CBI.*

YAHREZIT (MEMORIAL) PLAQUE

\$200 donation for each name. *Please make checks payable to CBI Cemetery Fund and mail to CBI.*

קהילת בני ישראל
Congregation B'nai Israel

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