

CONGREGATION B'NAI B'RITH

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Tammuz 5772 - Tishrei 5773



Viola z"l and her husband, Lester z"l Girsh were two of the most influential Jews in Santa Barbara. They were instrumental in formalizing the Jewish community back in 1927 when CBB was incorporated.

On the 25th of May, Rabbi Cohen delivered the following eulogy for Viola, the oldest member of our congregation and one of CBB's founding members. It is a moving story and we hope you will enjoy it.

We have come together today to say goodbye to Viola Girsh, to lay her life-loving body to rest in the earth, and in the same breath to bid a grateful farewell to an entire generation: the humble, proud, innocent, tough as nails, simple, brilliant, tirelessly hardworking generation who built the world we live in—the city of Santa Barbara that we know and love, and this synagogue, Congregation B'nai B'rith. Viola was the very last of our living founders....the tiny handful of wandering Jews who 85 years ago imagined and brought into reality Jewish Santa Barbara. We will not see their like again.

Viola was born in New York City, the daughter of Sarah and William Schoen. Because Viola's father William was a foreman for the American Cigar Company, the family moved around often, living in Detroit, New Brunswick, Kingston and Albany before finally moving out to California in 1921, when Viola was fourteen.

Viola S. Girsh

April 16, 1907 - May 22, 2012

We are standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before us

Joyce Johnson Rouse

Viola's aunt and uncle were already living in Santa Barbara and had contacted Sarah and William to let them know of a cigar shop for sale in Santa Barbara on the corner of State and Cota—and Viola's parents seized the opportunity, bought the shop and moved across the country where Jews were almost completely unheard of.

Viola was educationally advanced beyond her classmates here, and quickly finished high school...the first class to graduate from the then new Santa Barbara High School. What was Viola like as a young woman? Viola was trapped in her room following the 1925 earthquake which devastated downtown Santa Barbara. The rescuers broke through the rubble to free her but she would not come out until she had gotten herself completely dressed and presentable. Viola attended Santa Barbara State College up on the Riviera, where she and six friends founded a sorority which her daughter Ruelene would join a generation later. Graduating from college in 1926, Viola moved up to Taft, California, an oil town with a population of about 3,000, to work as a teacher. She was a refined young woman, made of very stern stuff.

A year later, she came back to Santa Barbara for the summer and the young optometrist Lester Girsh insisted that she stay and marry him. They were married in her parents' living room, by a rabbi who came up from Los Angeles and spoke no English. Frances Sanders played the piano.

The year was 1927, and in that same year, Viola's husband Lester and the handful of Jews in town drew up the first charter of Congregation B'nai B'rith. They had no building until

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A kosher style meat dinner SKOFIELD PARK Toast up some s'mores FAMILY Sleep under CAMPOUT the stars with **CBB** friends & family Overnight Sunday, September 2 thru breakfast, Monday, September 3 Signup online at www.cbbsb.org

TIMELESS JEWISH SPIRITUAL PRACTICE:

Coming to Terms with Jewish Prayer

Wednesdays through August 8 - 7:30 pm no class 7/11



Join Rabbi Cohen, whether you are a beginner and want to learn about prayer or are already practicing and seeking deeper understanding.

Free and open to all.

2012 **JEWISH COMMUNITY PICNIC**



11:30 am to 3:00 pm **Elings Park**

Questions: Sissy Taran at 969-2761 or email to sbtar@cox.net

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Sunday, October 21 - 9:30 am THE ADVENTURES OF AUGIE MARCH by Saul Bellow



UCLA Professor Charles Lynn Batten A master teacher, immensely popular and thought-provoking additional information at www.cbbsb.org



MITZVAH DAY

Sunday October 14 mark your calendar

For a complete list of CBB events go to www.cbbsb.org





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Ask the Rabbi

Question: My husband and I plan to raise our children as Jews but we are steadfastly opposed to circumcision. Can we have a "bloodless bris?"

Answer: This is one of the most difficult questions I have faced in twenty-seven years as a rabbi. On the one hand, as a Reform Jew and rabbi, I do believe deeply that each Jew has the right and the responsibility to make his or her own religious decisions, and to follow the instructions of his/her own conscience. On the other hand, circumcision is not a mere custom. For almost four thousand years it has been the physical sign of a Jewish man, and was the first commandment given to the Jewish people.

I do not want to discuss here the arguments for and against circumcision. Suffice it to say that I feel completely comfortable encouraging new parents to follow the ancient tradition of our ancestors and to circumcise their sons.

But the questioner has come to the opposite conclusion. She and her husband wish to raise their child as a Jew, but not to circumcise him. Can we as a community, and can I as a rabbi, support this decision? Will I help this couple conduct a ceremony welcoming him into the Jewish covenant, without the rite of circumcision?

I respect this couple's sincere effort to do what is best for their child. I understand that their decision is based on their own deeply held ethical values. But I disagree with their decision, and I cannot publicly or privately offer my support for their decision to not circumcise.

I will be happy and honored to teach this child, and to include him in every aspect of our communal life. He is Jewish, circumcised or not....and I will be pleased to bless him when he becomes Bar Mitzvah and, God willing, under the chuppah at his wedding. But as a rabbi I cannot perform a "bloodless bris," a ceremony which goes directly against my understanding of this most ancient commandment.

2012/13 Board of Trustees

On July 1, 2012 the new Board of Trustees takes on the responsibility of guiding our synagogue through the next year. We welcome each individual and humbly thank them for the time, expertise and commitment they are making to ensure the quality of life at Congregation B'nai B'rith.

Please introduce yourselves to these wonderful people. They are eager to know what you think and are open to hearing any ideas you may have.

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CBB Mission Statement

CBB Sisterhood

GIFT SHOP



The Gift Shop is open during "Sunday Morning Live" (usually the first Sunday of the month 9:30 am to 11:00 am), by appointment, and prior to holidays. For more information call Jessica Glick at 696-6289 or check out the gift shop's online store at www.cbbsb.org.

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Ideas for a story?

Photos to share?

be a part of

VOICES

Fall 2012 deadline August 1

> contact Benjie Baker

benjie@cbbsb.org

Interested in

JOINING CBB?

Contact Benjie Baker benjie@cbbsb.org 964-7869 x 21 CBB is a diverse, inclusive community of individuals and families building together a warm and vibrant house of living Judaism.

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HOSPITALIZED?

Our clergy
would like to
visit and offer
their support
and encouragement. If someone you know is
in the hospital,
please call the
Temple office.
Privacy policies
prevent hospital
staff from automatically calling
the Temple.

Resource Guide



from left: Karen Hochman-Brown, Daniel Hochman, Stephen Hochman, and Viola S. Girsh

volunteer leader who has the time and skill set to do so. Predictably, those that are truly competent at being leaders are already extremely busy! Here at CBB, the job of President had historically been to be the de-facto Executive Director. I made it my passion to transform the role of President into one that did not require a person to treat it as a full time job.

By putting an emphasis on setting tone and direction, while staying fully informed, I made it my business to fully empower the Temple to run as it should: led on a day by day basis by its Senior Rabbi and Executive Director. Of course, there are always the occasional crises and emergency calls. But making the job of President one of both leading and taking direction from an outstanding Board of Trustees, and defining strategy and empowering

Past, Present and Future by Daniel E. Hochman, 2010-2012 CBB President

The summer has arrived, and with it comes change at CBB. It is the time for services to move outside, and the time for us to welcome a new Board of Trustees. This year, I transition into the venerable role of Immediate Past President. This comes at a time of other transitions for me. Most notably, the passing of my beloved grandmother, Viola Girsh z"l, the last of our Temple's original founders. In each of the organizations I was involved in, I was able to shepherd it along its path, sometimes setting new paths, with an emphasis on looking to the future and to ensuring that the balance of staff and volunteer duties has been analyzed and improved.

Finding volunteers to participate in the governance of their loved organization sometimes proves difficult. I am glad to say that the CBB Board has become something on which people are requesting to serve. By having interesting philosophical discussions and by having our action items well vetted before presentation, we have held the highest traditions of making the Board a place of honor and integrity and a forum for making great decisions for our community.

As I look back, I think the most profound part of my term has been the opportunity to meet regularly with Rabbi Cohen and Deborah Naish. This process led to what I believe was one of the most important results of my term, to tame the job of President. One bane of non-profit organizations is actually finding someone to be a

staff to carry out the Board's policies is something of which I am very proud. Each member of our staff does their job confidently, professionally, and with smiles on their faces. Without their help, my job would have been quite different, and frankly, not as much fun.

And what is a President without a Board? I want to thank each of my Board members from the last 4 years, and especially the current Board of Trustees at CBB. You have kept me honest, pushed me to look at all sides of every issue that has come before us, and been great leaders of CBB. I am proud to have been your President.

Tragically, we lost our Executive VP, Barry Mosesman z"l, suddenly and unexpectedly earlier this year. His death has left a huge hole in our volunteer leadership. Barry was unrelenting in his passion for keeping our building running and improving the campus. His architectural skills and his commitment to CBB are truly missed.

Also leaving the Board this year, and deserving of special thanks: Judi Koper, (Development VP), Jody Kaufman (Treasurer), Josh Rabinowitz (Parliamentarian), Ellen Chase (Religious School Trustee), Beth Katz (Fundraising Events), Randy Gross (At Large Trustee), and Sydney Book (SBORTY President). We are grateful for their service to our community. I also want to thank Marlyn Bernstein who served as Past President on the Executive Committee this past year. Marlyn will remain as Honorary Trustee for our Board.

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Bobbi Kroot: 2012 Viola S. Girsh Award Recipient

"The Viola S. Girsh Award was created, in 2004, to recognize members who have shown long-term dedication to the continuity of CBB," explains Daniel E. Hochman, 2011/2012 Board President and grandson of Viola S. Girsh z"l.

Bobbi Kroot is the 8th recipient of this distinguished service award. We asked Bobbi to tell us a little bit about how she

came to be involved at CBB and why it was important to her. Her story is below.

Bobbi and her husband Art bought their home in Santa Barbara in 1986 and immediately joined CBB. They called the Temple beforehand from Indiana and reached David Landecker, then President of CBB. When Bobbi said she wanted to get involved and would work on anything, David said, "Anything?" "Before I knew it I was the Ways and Means Trustee on the Temple Board for the next three years. This was a wonderful way to meet a lot of people and participate in many interesting Temple activities for all different age groups," says Bobbi.

We thank
Bobbi
and look
forward to
many more
years of
leadership!
Go Bobbi!



Bobbi also joined the Sisterhood Board. About 15 years ago she became Sisterhood President and tells us that it has been her "most rewarding experience as an active member of the Jewish community. I have never worked with such a dedicated and self-motivated group of women. The current Cookbook Project is a perfect example of how this board works. Several women decided we should have a new Sisterhood cookbook.

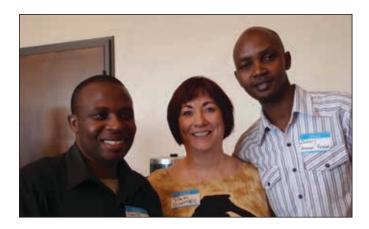
They formed their own committee, have been meeting and working on the recipes for over a year, and will soon have a beautiful finished product for our community to enjoy."

Bobbi continues: "I came to Santa Barbara from a very small Jewish community of about a dozen families, but having grown up in L.A., I knew that organized Jewish community activites would be happening in Santa Barbara. I just never expected to find the depth of caring and mutual concern for each other's welfare, in good times and bad, that I have found in Santa Barbara. CBB has been a very nurturing place for me to learn, laugh, and feel very much at home."

High Holy Days

Slichot	September 8
Rosh Hashanah	
Sunday Evening	September 16
Monday Morning	September 17
Tuesday 2nd Day	September 18
Yom Kippur	
Tuesday Kol Nidre	September 25
Wednesday	September 26
Sukkot	
Begins Sunday Evening	September 30
Simchat Torah	
Sunday Evening	October 7
Monday Morning	October 8

UBUMWE PRESCHOOL RWanda



by Pam Gunther and Ellen Hunter

In early April, we got a sweet taste of how G-d truly works in mysterious ways! Nearly 2 years after CBB committed to building a preschool in Rwanda, we still had a lot of fundraising left to complete the project. The fence and gate surrounding the property, as well as the foundation, are completed. The next phase was building the walls of the preschool at a cost of \$25,000. Considering we had only about 20% of that in the bank, completing the preschool by the end of 2012 seemed like a daunting task.

We decided to sit down with Rabbi Cohen, as we periodically do, to strategize next steps in the fundraising process. It was two days later that we received the news about a substantial donation that would dramatically move the project forward. As if that wasn't enough, Kids Helping Kids, at San Marcos High School, notified us, for the second year in a row, they would be sending a \$5,000 check. This was followed by one more significant donation and all of a sudden we began to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Fast forward to today and the walls of the preschool are now built! Actual classrooms are beginning to take shape.

Now, CBB is planning a visit to see our friends in Rwanda, to help build the preschool and most importantly, to develop deeper relationships with the people in Gisenyi. Frederick often asks in his e-mails, "How is our CBB family in Santa Barbara?" He wants to know when we will come for a visit? How wonderful it is to finally have an answer!

We need just \$20,000 to complete the Ubumwe Preschool in Rwanda. You can donate by visiting the website at www. ubumwecenter.org, click on the heading "preschool project" to donate. If you want more information contact Pam Gunther at pamspeace@aol.com



Zachary (left), Frederick (right) and some of the children in Gisenyi, May 2012.



These bricks, the future walls of the Ubumwe Preschool, were all made by hand.



The preschool is taking shape.
The walls are up!



AT CBB

a program sponsored by the Toby Parisse Art Education fund



by Jana Brody Coordinator Toby Parisse Art Education Fund

CBB has embarked on a path of cutting-edge thinking. Whether it's going green by adding solar panels, shaking up Shabbat with yoga and musical concert-like services, or restoring a historical

Torah; CBB is enriching the lives of its congregants. An exciting addition to CBB's repertoire of Jewish experiential learning has been made possible through the memorial gift of the **Toby Parisse Art Education Fund**.

CBB is proud to announce **Art Connections @CBB**; connecting to Torah, Judaism, and the Jewish community through "hands-on" artistic creation. The infusion of art into our congregational life will happen through weekly, quarterly, and yearly special events engaging and encouraging participation from people of all ages.

The first of these programs is **Studio Toby**, a weekly drop-in studio on Tuesday nights from 7:00-9:00 p.m beginning July 10 for artists to get together and share talents, techniques, and mentor new artists. The goal is combining "the love of making art" and the "love of giving art" through tzedakah and your own projects. Needle pointers, knitters, painters and other artists with "portable art" of all ages are invited, from veterans to beginners.

Art Workshops will happen three times a year for artists and non-artists alike. The first workshop is "Tallis Making", on September 9 from 2-5 pm.

Sofer Neil Yerman's interaction with our congregation has inspired the idea for an **Artist-in-Residence Program**. Featuring an up and coming artist, the program, along with congregant participation and art education, will culminate in an art commission for the Temple.

In addition, an **Art Room Makeover**, upgrading our current student art room is in the planning stage. It is CBB's vision to honor the passion and memory of artists, such as Toby Parisse z"I, by inspiring our amazing members, young and old, to embrace Judaism in a new creative way. Art Connections @CBB will enrich our lives by helping us connect more deeply to G-d, our community and the world around us; expanding our minds through our hands.

For more information, contact Jana at janabrody@arfulcity.com



Our Caring Community

by Sheila Golburgh Johnson

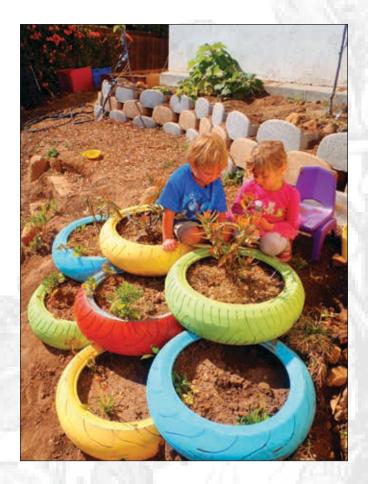
Many of us realize that the entire CBB membership as well as the staff and clergy are a caring community. We come together in celebration of births and other simchot, support each other in illness, and comfort one another when we lose loved ones. But in the midst of this large group there is a more structured organization to help members in time of need. In these cases the Caring Community Committee and its many volunteers step in to provide our congregants support. Under the capable guidance of *Alan Levy*, the Caring Community Chairman, and *Cantor Mark Childs*, here are some of the services we provide:

Lisa Miller and Jenny Mintz coordinate Meals for Parents with Newborns, delivering meals for two or three weeks. Lisa works constantly to help others, and tells us, "As a member of the Caring Community I never imagined that I would need their help. Last October I was diagnosed with Breast Cancer, and had limited mobility when I came home from the hospital. The meals from congregants were a blessing for me and my family. We will be forever grateful for everyone's love and care."

Sheila Golburgh Johnson arranges for meals for those who are ill for one or two weeks, utilizing the services of **Cooking Angels** who volunteer to cook and deliver these meals. One of our Cooking Angels has this to say about her services: "Preparing and sharing good food nourishes body, mind, and spirit. We do this at CBB in large and small ways, accepting and valuing all in a caring community."

Caring Visitors is a joint effort of the CBB-Jewish Family Services Caring Visitors Program, which matches Jewish seniors from the congregation and community with specially trained CBB members who regularly visit, providing support and companionship. *Debbie Hartzman* and *Harriet Marx* coordinate this program.

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BHY Garden Project:

A conversation between Karen and Hadley Polinsky

H: Mom, we need to think about my tzedakah project for my Bat Mitzvah. I don't want to just do anything; I have to feel it.

K: I found this cool farm and camp called Camp Eden that actually follows what your portion says about the sabbatical year. They let the land lie fallow every seventh year. I know someone whose daughter went to camp there and loved it. You could make a donation to their farm.

H: Yeah, I guess. But I'm not connected to that. It doesn't mean anything to me.

K: So, what are you thinking?

A Bat Mitzvah Proiect

H: I want to combine gardening and children. I want to make a garden with little kids.

K: Hmmm. I know a great place that you love and feel connected to. They would definitely take the teachings you have been studying to heart. It's perfect.

H: Beit HaYeladim! We can collect plants and seeds and tools and work on a vegetable garden with them. I

want to help plant the stuff with the kids. But when I was there, we planted sunflowers and I remember they got stomped on. I don't want that to happen.

K: No way! Let's meet with them and see how you can help.

In the end, we collected over 20 different vegetable and herb plants, several types of seeds, many brand new tools, buckets, watering cans, gloves, ground cover planting and succulents for the preschool.

As part of Beit HaYeladim's (BHY) curriculum we teach children about the Jewish value of "shmirat ha-adamah" - "caring for the earth." In Genesis 2:15, God puts Adam in the Garden of Eden "to work it and to guard it." At BHY we talk about how G-d gave the earth to us to take care of. We also teach that we are created 'b'tzelem Elohim' in God's image and have a responsibility to take care of our bodies.

For preschoolers these concepts are best understood through experience. On Mitzvah Day last fall, a dedicated crew built a wall and planter box so that Beit HaYeladim could have a garden.

To date we have harvested strawberries, green onions, sugar snap peas, tomatoes, and lettuce. The children love to climb up the hill to the garden and eat straight from the plants.

We have amazed parents whose children have "never eaten a vegetable before" telling us that their children are coming home with tales of picking and eating vegetables straight from the garden.

While we have accomplished a great deal we still have more to do:

- plant to resolve our drainage issues
- create an arbor to be a sukkah in the fall
- plant a hedge at the bottom of the hill for safety
- continue to terrace the hill

Hadley's donation was a huge help towards accomplishing our goals. We also just received a \$2000 grant from the Whole Foods Foundation.

If you are interested in helping us create a magical space where children can get dirty, learn about the earth, grow things, and expand the variety of vegetables and other healthy foods they consume please contact:

Julie Ehrnstein Director of Early Childhood Education julie@cbbsb.org





2012 Jewish Festival



The 2012 Jewish Festival on Sunday, April 29 was an allaround success for CBB and for everyone! With more than 30 vendors, delicious food, great entertainment, and community organizations, it was a great representation of our Jewish community and a celebration of Israel's 64th anniversary. CBB's booth was busy all day long, informing attendees about the wonderful happenings. A big thank you to all of our staff and volunteers for coming out and representing CBB with a smile!



We thank the Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara for organizing this important annual Jewish event.



Life Can't Get Better Than This

by Vanessa Massel

"Vanessa!" My religious-school kids yelled as they ran toward me, arms outstretched and smiles plastered on their faces as they crashed into me at all once, nearly toppling us all over.

"Vanessa," my student said, looking at me seriously, "I love you." The words are matter-of-fact, as though she said two plus two equals four. I can't imagine life gets any better than that.

At times like these, I realize how profoundly lucky I was to have had an opportunity to work with our amazing and adorable CBB religious-school children.

This year I had the wonderful opportunity in Jennifer Lewis' class and in the HIP program (Hebrew Immersion Program with Yifat Nahmias) as well.

I can't think of a better place to be than CBB. It is fun and relaxing after my long, hard, and sometimes stressful days at high school. On certain school days when my eyes passed over the slowly-moving clock one time too many, I would smile -- I get to go to HIP today!

When I was in elementary school and attending religious school, the madrichim in my class were always the best part. They were someone to connect with, someone closer to my age. I can still remember watching the doorway on days my madrichah wasn't in class, hoping, mostly silently, that she would turn up late. Later, I would resign myself to the lesson when I finally gave up hope of her arriving late.

That is what I strive for as well -- the kids wanting to see me, and them watching the doorway on days I can't be there, and sighing softly (or not so softly) when they realize I won't be joining them.

Vanessa will be a 12th grade student at Dos Pueblos High School and has been a madrichah for 3 years. We have thirty 9th-12th grade students who work as teacher aides (madrichim). These students are members of the Hadracha (Leadership) Development Program and participate in teacher training and educational programs, coordinated by Laurie Greene, facilitator of the Program and Ruth Steinberg, Director of the Religious School.

by Dan, Laura, Ethan and Emma Habecker

Our family was privileged to host Ben Ben Ami during his visit to CBB. Over the four days Ben stayed with us, we each felt we connected with him in a very personal way. Our new friendship will endure over the years.

Not knowing much about the Leo Baeck Center it soon became clear to us what a natural fit we have with our twin community. Leo Baeck and CBB have a shared commitment to life-long learning and community, with Judaism at the core.

However, we came to learn that the Reform Judaism we enjoy in America is not readily available to the average Israeli. Ben explained that the State of Israel does not recognize Reform Judaism as an official religion. This status is reserved for only the Orthodox.

OUR NEW CONNECTION WITH ISRAEL AND THE

LEO

BAECK CENTER

Ben also told us that many Israelis, up to 80%, would not be considered Orthodox. Since there are no other official Jewish denominations in Israel, most of this majority simply consider themselves to be secular Jews. From his experience at Leo Baeck, and by visiting Reform congregations abroad, Ben believes Israelis are missing out on a richer and deeper way to express their Jewish identity. Ben is determined to help the Reform movement grow in Israel. And after spending four days with him, we think he will succeed.

CBB has entered into a twincommunities partnership with Leo Baeck Education Center in Haifa, Israel to promote $intercultural\ relationships\ between$ our community and the Reform Israeli community. In March, Rabbi Ofek Meir, Carol Braun, and high school student Ben Ben Ami visited CBB. In May, Carol returned with Eran Shafir and gave CBB an olive tree as a symbol of peace and the relationship that will grow over the years. This summer, two Leo Baeck students, Yoni Khalatnik and Batel Mankovsky, will be counselors at Camp Haverim. CBB is planning a trip to Israel the summer of 2013, where we will spend a significant amount of time at the Leo Baeck Education Center.

Dwelling as a Jew

by Paula Watamanuk-Goldman



Six years ago after being exposed to Judaism and having an overwhelming feeling of belonging, I decided to live my life as a Jew. My entire life had been void of religious influence so the word conversion didn't feel appropriate. When I mentioned this to Rabbi Cohen he stated that dwelling was a more accurate translation, I was

clear that I would begin dwelling as a Jew for the rest of my life. I subsequently enrolled in and finished the conversion classes.

What I discovered and continue to uncover is how Judaism fits like a glove. I love the freedom to question, the encouragement to express my ideas and the thought provoking conversations which lead me to a better understanding of what I believe. I love the comfort of the traditions.

Through the Temple I have made friends who feel like family; they invite me into their homes of Jewish love and I learn more about Judaism. They are some of my first teachers. Sitting in Shul I feel embraced by sermon and song. I sing the prayers, clap my hands and am brought to tears when I hear Shalom Rav. My slow but sure involvement in opportunities to learn and socialize is succeeding in broadening and balancing my life.

My most surprising Jewish embrace happened at a community center for young people from Ethiopia in Tel Aviv. I sat in a small group while questions were being asked with Rabbi Cohen translating. A teenage girl speaking Hebrew asked our group why we came to Israel. My answer was that I had just converted. She spoke again in Hebrew and Rabbi looked at me and said she wanted to know why I converted. I found myself looking into her serious gaze and stated I wanted to deepen my connection to Judaism and the Jewish people. Rabbi translated and she spoke right back to me in Hebrew never taking her eyes off mine and I heard Rabbi's translation "I would like to say that I have deep respect for your decision to become a Jew, and I welcome you into our Jewish people." I wept at this embrace.

I have recently extended my decision to dwell as a Jew by enrolling in B'nai Mitzvah classes. What a great decision this has been. With the help of wonderful classmates and a dedicated and loving teacher, I am delighting in the Torah and Hebrew.

continued on page 27

Our Caring Community continued from page 9

Mi Shebeirach is one of the traditional prayers for healing. We read the names of the ill at Shabbat services before the recitation of the prayer, and a Caring Community volunteer calls periodically to see how healing is progressing.

The **Mental Health Initiative** was created by *Lynne Glasman* and *Jane Honikman* to provide information about various mental illnesses. The Initiative has sponsored several lectures and is planning group meetings focused on challenging life passages, such as retirement or having children grow up and leave home

When losing a close family member, it is customary to mourn for seven days after the funeral. Often a Minyan gathers so the bereaved may recite Kaddish, and our wonderful *Audrey Okaneko*, CBB's Office Manager, helps coordinate this mitzvah. A bereavement platter of food is also provided by CBB if the **Shiva Minyan** is in town, as a symbol of our condolences. We are looking at creating a group of Shiva Angels, individuals who would help families plan and coordinate a shiva minyan in their time of loss.

The **End-of-Life Initiative** has had successful seminars to discuss the Jewish traditions surrounding death and bereavement, and to plan for advance directives. This is a

continuing effort to educate and prepare CBB members for the issues we and our families will all face one day.



We always need more volunteers. If you would like to participate in any of these mitzvot or have ideas for new caring community programs, please contact team leader *Alan Levy*, Caring Community Chair at 252-8048 or Alan_Levy@cox.net or *Cantor Mark Childs* at cantor@cbbsb.org

Team Leaders:

Shiva Minyan - Audrey Okaneko 964-7869 or Audrey@cbbsb.org

Caring Visitors - Debbie Hartzman 683-1887 or Harriet Marx, hmarx@sbjf.org

Meals for Parents with Newborns

Lisa Miller: 569-6023 or lisamillertutor@hotmail.com Jenny Mintz: 692-8732 or jennymintz@yahoo.com

Mental Health Initiative - Lynne Glassman 898-2353 or Iglasman@cox.net

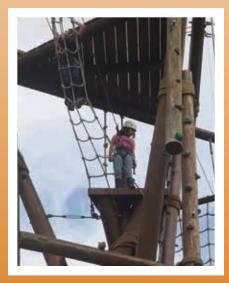
Cooking Angels - Sheila Golburgh Johnson 682-4618 or goldbug@cox.net















Join Us Next Year Family Camp 2013 - March 22-24



CBB Family Camp Retreat

by Lisa Miller

More than 40 families, with 66 kids from ages 2 to 17 gathered for fun, food, and Jewish connection in Simi Valley from March 30 to April 1. From the moment we arrived at CBB's Family Camp Retreat weekend, we felt like we were surrounded by family. Everyone was excited about the activities and events to come. Our children immediately found friends and began playing. To know that our children could play with friends, in the safety of the Brandeis-Bardin campus, was a highlight of our weekend.

Each of our family members found something special to do during the weekend. Rebekah's (age 8) favorite memory was riding the horse on a trail ride. Nathaniel (age 6) enjoyed playing soccer in the rain. Eric had fun participating in the Maccabiah games. I appreciated spending time with my family just eating, praying, and playing. We are looking forward to the retreat next year. We hope that you will join us.



















During the week of Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, we had a meaningful visit from Sofer Neil Yerman and our 200+ year old Czech Memorial Holocaust Torah. During this visit, many community members helped to decorate a portion of the Torah with "crowns upon crowns," some of the flourishes that make

a Torah unique. We also remembered and honored the town of Pribram, where our Torah is from and shared in a special ceremony where interfaith clergy from throughout Santa Barbara learned about our Torah and joined together to help in the restoration process.

In between visits, Sofer Yerman has been working carefully to repair and restore our Torah at the "little Torah hospital" in New York. We have now completed our community portion of the restoration with over 700 letter writers having participated, and now Sofer Yerman will continue the restoration throughout the summer. We are preparing a proper rededication for the fall, to coincide with the reading of the first Torah portion, Bereshit. After that, our Czech Memorial Holocaust Torah will be placed back into the Ark in the main sanctuary, and will be read from for years to come.

For more information about Our Year of Living Torah, and to see photos of past letter writing sessions, go to www.cbbsb.org and click on the Living Torah link.















Ashley Monser and Margaret Singer (Holocaust survivor)

Interfaith Clergy Responses to CBB Yom HaShoah Service

by Cantor Mark Childs

It had been more than a few years since our Yom HaShoah observance was shared with our interfaith community. Our collaboration with the Greater Santa Barbara Clergy Association was given new life this past April 18th as clergy and leadership from across the interfaith community came together on our bimah. They gathered not to merely bear witness, but as full participants in all aspects of the commemoration. They were readers in our service and they

lit candles in memory of the six million.

Before the service began, they sat with Sofer Neil Yerman and joined in the restoration of our Czech memorial Torah scroll as they each



penned a sacred letter. As you can read in the responses printed on these pages from those clergy who were with us, the experience was profoundly powerful.

Remembering the victims of the Holocaust cannot be relegated to the Jewish community alone. The lessons to be learned and the stories to be told and retold cannot be for our ears only. By inviting our brothers and sisters from all faith communities to mourn with us, we send a loud message that we are all witnesses to suffering and we are all responsible for carrying forth the message "Never Again!"

It is said in the Bhagavad Gita that the highest yogi is one who "burns with the bliss and suffers the sorrow of every creature within his or her own heart." It was a great privilege to share with Congregation B'nai B'rith the deep sorrow of the Holocaust, and it was an equal privilege to share the joy of the Torah restoration, proving yet again that the Jewish people will endure only to thrive and bless us all with their strength and wisdom Sister Pravrajika Vrajaprana, Vedanta Society of Southern California

Thank you for including me in this wonderful heart-felt, heart-expanding experience. I felt at home and very much enjoyed participating in such a signal and sacred event. It was a true blessing to help in the restoration of an honored scripture and to actively participate in the Holocaust Remembrance Observance with you and others from diverse faith traditions. *Dr. Hymon Johnson, Sri Sathya Sai*

As a friend of the Jewish community my heart was deeply stirred being part of the recent Torah scroll restoration project and Holocaust Remembrance Service at Congregation B'nai B'rith. The Reverend Canon Brian Cox Christ the King Episcopal Church

Thank you for the invitation to participate in the Torah Restoration and Holocaust Remembrance Observance. Actually having my hand led to inscribe a letter in the Torah was a heartfelt experience. I always find myself deeply moved by the terrible suffering and the immense courage of those who went through the Holocaust. It is a time to recall and it is extremely meaningful to be with you as we all remember.

Rev. Judith Muller, First Presbyterian Church

Participating in the Holocaust Observance was as sobering as visiting Auschwitz, humbling as a human being, and one of the special honors of my life. The potential for world peace is made real by these shared moments

Denise Leichter, Pastor, Community of Christ

That was one of the most memorable experiences of my clerical life. You are so generous to let us be part of something so meaningful. I honestly did not feel worthy to be lighting a candle on the same altar with candles lit by survivors. If our doing so was in any way a positive act for them, I am grateful. Steve Jacobsen, Executive Director, Santa Barbara Hospice

The experience led me into a profound silence.
A singular sense of safety and belonging in your company.
A state of honesty with life's condition.
At home on your sacred ground.
Remembrance of being fully human in the presence of peers with nowhere to hide.

Dr. Ed Bastian, Spiritual Paths Foundation

Mazel Toy!

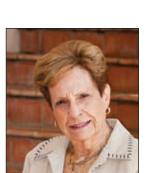


Professor Arthur Gross-Schaefer.

Rabbi of the Community Shul of Montecito and Santa Barbara was named one of the 'Best Professors' in the United States by the Princeton Review. In addition, he was selected as the 2012 recipient of the prestigious Rains Award for Excellence in Service at Loyola Marymount University, making him the first professor to have won both of LMU's awards for distinguished teaching and excellence in service.



Masha Keating on her art show at Corridan Gallery featuring her contemporary botanical oil paintings.



Daniela Gottesman. daughter of Oded and

Anat, for winning 4th place in the California Science Fair in LA. She also received the President's Award for Educational Excellence!





Max Raphael, son of David and Lisa, for winning the Santa Barbara County Spelling Bee for elementary school children and placing third in the California State Spelling Bee,



Bernice and Lou Weider for being inducted into the Santa Barbara Hillel Hall of Fame.



Cody Shevitz, son of Mark and Kate, for winning the Mikey Murison Memorial Sportsmanship Award for the college level sailor that best exemplifies the Corinthian ideals of sailing.



representing

SB County.

Linda and Stan Schwartz on the birth of their grandson Jonah Seth Schwartz.



Beit HaYeladim

Preschool on receiving

Foods for their garden!

a grant from Whole

CBB students Eric Capelle, Talya Steinberg, and Abbie (8) and Emily (5) Mintz, who were in the Dos Pueblos High School performance of "Tarzan."

> **CBB** students **David Childs** and Sara Weiner, who were actors in San Marcos High School's "Kiss Me Kate."

Cheryll Welkowsky for being honored by Southern California Hadassah

Abe and Molly Presser on the birth of their granddaughter Rivka Presser. Rivka is the daughter of Eric and Sarah and was born on April 30.



Why we are Leaving a Legacy Gift

A Conversation with Jerry and Ruth Harter by Deborah Naish

CBB feels like a cashmere jacket. It is soft and lies over the body without a wrinkle. It is warm and just feels good. – Jerry Harter

What a delicious image. When Jerry Harter said this to me, the image resonated. I met with Jerry and Ruth to talk with them about why they are leaving a legacy gift to CBB as part of our Children of the Covenant Campaign, designed to build our endowment funds.

Jerry has been in Santa Barbara for over 40 years and has seen a lot of growth and changes in the Jewish community. His children have been beneficiaries of the religious school; his grandchildren as well - the icing on the cake is the grandchildren also benefited from the preschool! One thing that has not changed is the importance of supporting Santa Barbara's Jewish organizations. Jerry and Ruth believe that "first gifts have to go to the Jewish community".

He says, "It is our responsibility to maintain our community, as those who did before us, we must do it now and into perpetuity. And to do that, we need to build our endowment fund. Leaving a planned gift is the easiest way to build this fund. It doesn't affect you now and it makes a significant difference to the temple. We have the pleasure of watching the Jewish community thrive now. Don't you want to share in the pleasure of ensuring it's future? You have that opportunity today."

Jerry and Ruth believe that "we have to set the standard for our children by showing that giving is what we value. We are not saying don't take care of your kids. We are asking each one of us to also take care of our temple family and to commit a fair share legacy."

If every one of us can do what Jerry and Ruth are doing, giving for our future, we'll assure the future of CBB and a strong Jewish community in Santa Barbara. If you have already made provisions for a legacy gift or would like information on how to do this, please contact me or Steve Amerikaner, Chair, Children of the Covenant Campaign.

Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference.

Deborah Naish at naish@cbbsb.org or 964-7869 x 12 Steve Amerikaner at SAmerikaner@bhfs.com.



MAY THEIR LIVES BE FOR A BLESSING

March - May 2012

Lisa Rozsa, mother of Eve Senn and Julia Smith, mother-in-law of Howard.

Fred Linden, husband of Pauline Linden, father of Ruth Rubin, father-in-law of Lewis, grandfather of Alix and Josh Rabinowitz, and great-grandfather of Jesi, Rachel and Ari.

Eugene Briere, father of Danny Briere, grandfather of Ethan.

Sylvia Oreskes, a long-time member of our congregation.

Tom Farrer, father of Belinda Zola, father-in-law of Steve, and grandfather of Danielle, Jordan, and Kayla.

Viola S. Girsh, wife of Lester z"l, mother of Ruelene and Lou z"l Hochman, grandmother of Stephen, Karen and Neil, Daniel and Mandy, great-grandmother of Heather, Sean and Caress, great-great-grandmother of Sean Lucian.

Lynn Rabinowitz, beloved wife of Izzy, mother of Mirle and Stewart and Josh and Alix, grandmother of Dalia, Noah, Jesi, Rachel, and Ari.

Ha'makom yenahem
etkhem betokh
She'ar avelei Tziyon
v'Yerushalayim.
May God console you
among the other mourners
of Zion and Jerusalem.

Viola S. Girsh Eulogy from front cover

1932 when they had grown too large to meet in people's homes. Lester traded a property he owned on State Street for a grocery store at 1028 Garden Street, which the men refurbished and converted into the synagogue's building for the next eighteen years. The dedication ceremony, by the way, was attended by a dozen priests from the Mission, who added a blessing to the ceremony! And so it was, that exactly eighty years ago Lester and Viola Girsh provided this congregation with its first home.

That young couple, Lester and Viola could not in their wildest dreams, have imagined that eighty years later their grandson Daniel would be serving as President of their synagogue, now grown to over 700 member families....but it would have made their hearts burst with pride.

Over the next eighty years, Viola and Lester continued to provide for this congregation and for the broader Santa Barbara community, in ways innumerable -- large and small. In early years as Temple treasurer, Lester would walk up and down State Street collecting the 50 cent Temple dues from the Jewish merchants. Viola provided the flowers at every Passover seder. Lester personally signed the loan document when the congregation bought this piece of land, putting up his own property as collateral. Viola was a charter member and leader in Hadassah, and in the first women's auxiliary of the Temple— Tzedakah—and she chaired the event to furnish the kitchen when the new building opened. After the Thursday night poker games of the B'nai B'rith Lodge, Viola and the women arrived in the morning to clean up and make the building presentable for Friday night services. It's an old story!!... but those days are gone, and that's a good thing.

The more recent history of Viola and Lester Girsh is well-known in Santa Barbara. The creation of the 25 acre Girsh Park and the Little League Fields in Goleta, their wonderfully generous support for the Santa Barbara Family YMCA, the Granada Theater, the Beyond Tolerance Educational Project, and the largest donation this synagogue has ever received....by far... in recognition of which this sanctuary bears their family's name. By today's standards, Viola and Lester Girsh came from humble beginnings, but they will go down in Santa Barbara history among the outstanding citizens who built this town.

Viola's greatest legacy, however, is the four generations of marvelous descendents she leaves behind—her daughter Ruelene Hochman, one of the most down-to-earth, loving, honest and ethical human beings I've ever known, three truly gifted and talented grandchildren, Stephen, Karen, and Daniel, her two great-grandchildren, Heather and Sean, and the most recent arrival...Viola's first great-great-grandchild...Sean Lucian, born just a few months ago to Sean and Caress.

In the last years of her life, when I would come to visit Viola, we would sit surrounded by memories and she would reminisce about her long life. Eventually, she spoke less and less, often just repeating a phrase over and over. And finally, in the end, she spoke no words at all....but continued to look at me directly, making complete eye contact, her eyes speaking eloquently of the mystery of being 105 years old, approaching the end of her life as a mother and leader of a family, a congregation and a city.

From all of us Viola, for all that you did and all that you have given us, thank you. You made this a better world. The memory of this righteous woman will be a blessing for all of us, for the rest of our lives. Zecher tsaddik livracha.

Past, Present & Future from page 6

And now to my successor. Hallie Avolio is an excellent choice for our next President, and my mind is at ease when I think of passing the gavel to her. I believe you will find her to be dynamic, confident, knowledgeable, and wise. And she will have an excellent Board to lead

It is the passing of my Grandmother that has given me the opportunity to look forward. All I need do is look to her, and to my grandfather, Lester z"l, and to my Mom's devotion to CBB to know that there is a legacy at play here. That legacy includes leading a terrific Board, presenting balanced budgets, and being fiscally responsible in reaching those balanced budgets. We now have the legacy of our first Assistant Rabbi, Alyson Solomon, who forever changed the way we look at our Clergy model. We have an excellent staff, and quite frankly, the best clergy available. My grandmother taught all of us: "Give what you can; do what you can." She gave and she did. And so, I promise you this: even though I may no longer be President, you will still see me giving and doing. My family has been here since this place started, and we have no intention of abandoning our beloved Temple.

My love for CBB abounds, and my dedication to give what I can and to do what I am able has not waned. I will be turning my attention to ensuring the financial strength of CBB by leading an effort to analyze and improve the way that we generate sufficient revenue to cover our ongoing expenses. This, in combination with other efforts, including planned giving, major gifts and other fundraising efforts, will ensure that CBB is here long into the future, providing the warmth, caring, services, and programs that we have come to expect.

I like to say, endings lead to beginnings. Our Jewish tradition speaks eloquently to the values of looking at things I'dor v'dor: from generation to generation. Some might say that with the passing of my Grandmother, the last founding member of our Congregation, we have reached an ending. But instead, it represents a beginning: what wonderful times are ahead for CBB as we stand on the shoulders of our founders.

Ending my term as President does not tell me to slowly fade into the sunset, it tells me to begin a new era in my own life as a Past President, joining the ranks of some very important, wise, and wonderful people. Thank you for allowing me the honor and privilege of being your leader for these past years.

Todah Rabah to All

CBB is blessed with incredible members who give their time and talents. For March, April & May we want to thank the following members:

Michal Lynch for organizing the Potluck seder and **Judy Mannaberg Goldman** for organizing the interfaith Passover seder.

The Adult Choir, The Temple Band, SoulAviv for their participation in the Shira 2012 concert.

Elizabeth Gaynes and **the entire Living Torah Committee** for organizing the April visit of Sofer Yerman and the Yom HaShoah service.

Abe and Molly Presser for hosting Rabbi Elliot Dorff.

Jana Brody, Paula Goldman, Sheila Golburgh Johnson, Mahela Morrow Jones, Gary Linker, Rebekah Lovejoy, Allan Morton, Armando Quiros, Debi Scott, Rabbi Arthur Gross Schaefer, Gaby Steinberg and Rabbi Ira Youdovin for leading the sessions during Shavuot.

Beth Katz and **Jere Lifshitz** for hosting and leading the Farmer's Market Cooking with Jere party book.

Patrick Kearns, Jason Summers, Angel Ramirez for staffing the Pajamarama party book.

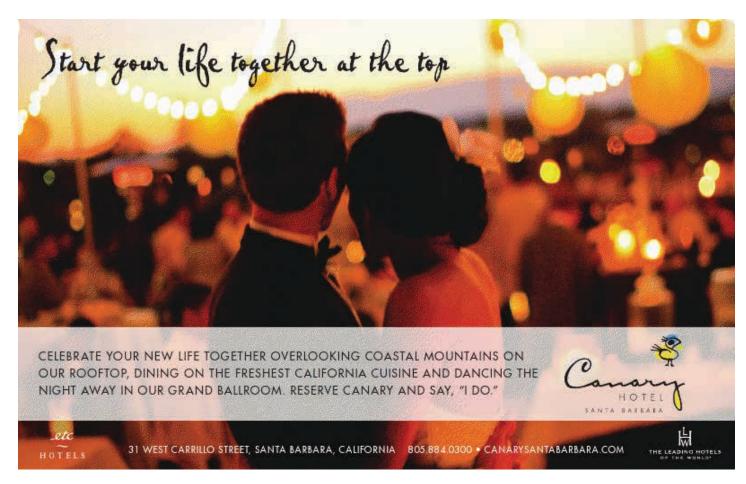
Marlyn Bernstein, Bernice Gelberg, Martie Levy, Dan Rothschild for their work on the Volunteer Recognition Work Group.

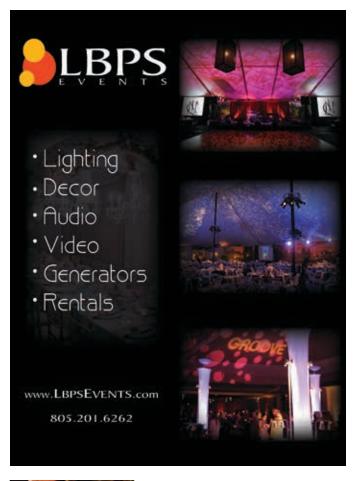
The Temple Band, Adult and Youth Choirs, Bob Remstein, and Cantor Mark Childs for the inspiring and fun musical repertoire at the Jewish Festival.

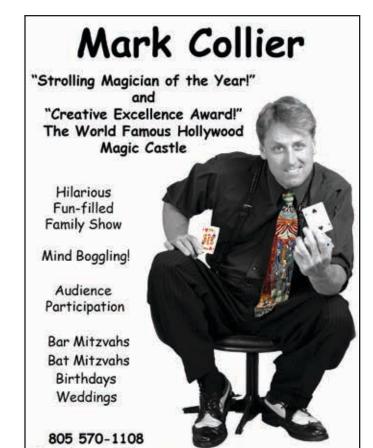
Hallie Avolio, Lynne Glasman, Alan Levy, Dan Rothschild, Michelle Walsh, Ira Weinstein, Mike Wolff, Jason Summers for working the CBB booth at the Jewish Festival.

Talya Anter-Engel for designing the Art Connections at CBB logo.

Jana Brody and **Linda Adler** for organizing the art show during the congregational meeting.









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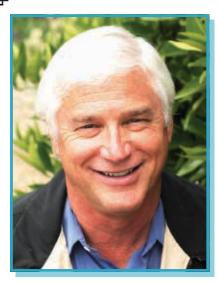


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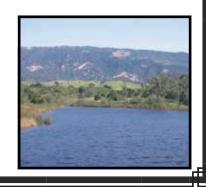
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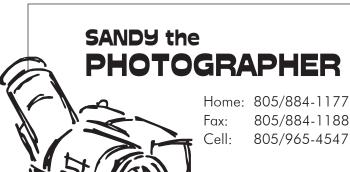
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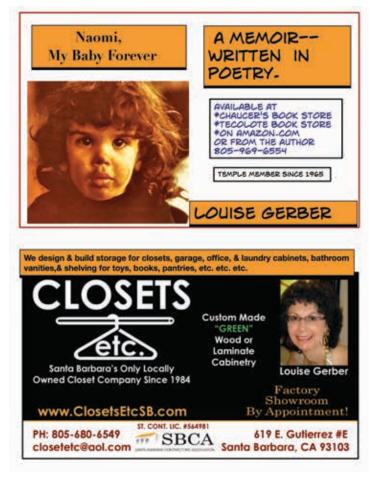
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Morton Steinberg by Grant and Melodie Lee James Thomas Scott by Grant and Melodie Lee Murray Gendell by Melodie and Grant Lee

LIBRARY FUND

In Memory of:

Lee Weisman by Arleen Weisman

ORESKES MUSIC FUND

Herbert and Carol Golub Jeff and Jana Young

In Honor of:

Cantor Childs by Hewitt and Pamela Lang Michal Lynch and Phillip Feldman for Israeli dancing by:

Charlene Little Claudia Sobel

Mollie and Abe Presser by Barbara and David Mizes Bob Remstein by Devora Sprecher

In Memory of:

Sylvia Oreskes by:

Marilyn Gilbert Michael Ginsberg

RABBI'S DISCETIONARY FUND

Herbert and Mary Bernstein Jewish Film Foundation Farideh Maho Harvey and Ellen Silverberg

In Honor of:

Rabbi and Marian Cohen's birthdays by
Don Johnson and Sheila Golburgh Johnson
Ginny Hunter's Bat Mitzvah by John and Ellen Hunter
Ken and Marti Schwartz by Cecilia Rothschild
Molly and David Weitzberg's wedding by Martha Richman
Natalie Wimbish's Bat Mitzvah by Jon and Marcy Wimbish

In Memory of:

Ella Barnes by Meredith and Michele Taylor Melba Baum by Robert and Esther Baum Dorothy Hokin by Robert and Esther Baum Anna Khakham by Mina and Boris Berenstein John Koenig by Meredith and Michele Taylor Fred Linden by:

Alix and Josh Rabinowitz

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Sidney Meyer by Meredith and Michele Taylor Frank Naish by:

Rich Belkin and Liza Presser-Belkin Meredith and Michele Taylor May Raichelle by Kathy Rayburn and Allen Raichelle Ann Rozansky by Bob and Leah Temkin Rae Rozansky by Bob and Leah Temkin Lisa Rozsa by Meredith and Michele Taylor Barbara Schonfeld by the Barker-Benfields Family Morton Steinberg by The Monday Night Mah Jongg Ladies

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In Memory of:

Lisa Rozsa by Linda and Darryl Perlin

Tisha B'Av Observance

Saturday, July 28 - 8 to 10 pm

An evening of reflection, music, prayer and study led by Rabbi Steve Cohen and Cantor Mark Childs. Tisha B'Av is the Jewish day of sorrow, commemorating the destruction of the ancient Temple in Jerusalem.

On Tisha B'Av we open ourselves to sadness, And begin our journey toward the spiritual heights of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Tu B'Av: A Holiday of Romance & Joy

Thursday, August 2

7:00 pm Bring Your Own Dinner 7:45 pm Entertainment

Flor de Kanela

A Santa Barbara-based music ensemble that performs traditional Sephardic music. Their repertoire consists of romances (ballads), love songs, songs of the life-cycle, and religious songs from Turkey, Greece and North Africa.

8:11 pm Watch the Full Moon Rise

Dwelling as a Jew continued from page 13

This experience is more than a chance to study
Torah and learn Hebrew. Instead I find myself deeply
connecting to Torah portions, finding personal meaning
that moves me as the process connects our group on
a soulful level. I also now stare intently at the Hebrew
during services and do my best to limp along. Last, but
by no means least, I am meeting wonderful people in
the process, people I hope to continue to study with. If
you are thinking of doing this, do it.

I want to thank all of you in the community for dwelling as Jews, because without you I wouldn't be on this journey. You have welcomed and inspired me. Thank you for paying it forward. Most importantly, for the first time in my life I feel Adonai holding my hand. My journey continues.

1000 San Antonio Creek Road Santa Barbara, CA 93111

Summer Shabbat Services

Friday Evenings thru September 7 Abrahams Outdoor Chapel 6:00 pm



Friday, July 20 Following Shabbat Services at the Oneg

Kalinka: An eclectic mix of Klezmer, Gypsy, Russian and French Cabaret instrumentals

Friday, July 27 during our Shabbat Service

A Conversation with Leo Baeck Students

Join us and welcome these students from Israel



Join Us To Welcome

CBB's New Assistant Rabbi

Rabbi Suzy Stone

Shabbat Services Friday, August 3

6:00 pm