

VOICES

Congregation B'nai B'rith

WINTER 2016 • JOURNAL VOL. 90 NO. 2 • KISLEV - ADAR 5776

FOCUS: BUILDING A LEGACY

The Temple of Our Dreams

Rubin Boxer, CBB's Former President and WWII Vet, Looks Back

By Ann Pieramici

At 88, Rubin Boxer is full of stories. He was born in Coney Island, New York, in 1927—the same year that Charles Lindburgh took his solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean, Henry Ford produced the last Model T, and Babe Ruth hit his first of 60 home runs in a season. Rubin Boxer has lived through tremendous times and shares a bit of his history with VOICES.

“OUR CONGREGATION LOOKED very different fifty-five years ago,” recalled Rubin during a recent interview. Rubin served

as president of CBB in 1960, when the temple building was a private residence on Santa Barbara Street. Space was so tight for the estimated 150 members that congregants sat in a long, narrow hallway facing the bimah.

He credits his predecessor, Milton Schmerzler, with keeping the temple together during challenging times. Rubin says his experience as President was “exciting, trying and interesting, dealing with strong, differing opinions among the Reform and more Conservative members, congregational in-fighting related to the succession of Rabbis, and as always, a need for finances.”

From the time he was a teenager Rubin worked, seeming to accept any job that came his way, including shipping clerk,



As membership increased, seats were placed in the restrooms for children attending Sunday school. “Though ill-equipped to easily accommodate the increase in membership, the openness and friendliness of the Congregation greeted newcomers warmly,” said Rubin.

In fact, it was Rubin’s wife, Pearl, who served as the informal greeter to newcomers during her husband’s tenure. Rubin and Pearl joined the temple with their four young children soon after relocating to Santa Barbara from the East Coast. It was just before Rubin’s reign that the temple resolved its heated, ongoing debate, agreeing to serve primarily as a Reform synagogue.

electronic troubleshooter and barker for a carnival side show. Rubin pursued electrical engineering as an undergraduate at Cooper Union and later received his master’s degree in this field. His education was interrupted for one year when he enlisted in the Navy. Fortunately, Rubin didn’t see much fighting. “The war

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Winter, 2016

Spring, 2016

David Makovsky

Ziegler Distinguished Fellow, Washington Institute for Near East Policy

Ghaith al-Omari

Senior Fellow, Washington Institute for Near East Policy

"Israelis and Palestinians: A New Paradigm?"

5:00 p.m. / Wednesday, Feb 24 / Free
UCSB Campbell Hall

Anat Hoffman

Executive Director, Israel Religious Action Center

"The Search for Cracks in the City of Stone: An Anatomy of the Struggles for Pluralism in Modern Jerusalem"

Thursday, March 10 / 7:30 p.m. / Free
Congregation B'nai B'rith

THE HERMAN P. AND SOPHIA TAUBMAN FOUNDATION ENDOWED SYMPOSIA IN JEWISH STUDIES AT UCSB, a program of the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, is cosponsored by UCSB Department of Religious Studies, Congregation B'nai B'rith, Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara, and Santa Barbara Hillel.

www.facebook.com/TaubmanSymposia

Join the Taubman Symposia on Facebook for more information about our events!

For assistance in accommodating a disability, please call (805) 893-2317.

Ruth Wisse

Emeritus Research Professor in Yiddish and Comparative Literature, Harvard University and Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Tikvah Fund

"No Joke: Making Jewish Humor"

Thursday, April 14 / 7:30 p.m. / Free
Congregation B'nai B'rith

In Commemoration of Yom HaShoah
Holocaust Remembrance Week Inaugural Event

Eva Kor

Author of *Surviving the Angel of Death: The True Story of a Mengele Twin in Auschwitz*

"Surviving the Angel of Death"

Thursday, May 5 / 7:30 p.m. / Free
UCSB (Location To Be Announced)

Rabbi Donniel Hartman

President, Shalom Hartman Institute, Israel, author of *The Boundaries of Judaism*, co-editor of *Judaism and the Challenges of Modern Life*

"Who are the Jews?"

Thursday, May 19 / 7:30 p.m. / Free
Santa Barbara Hillel

Jewish Book Club

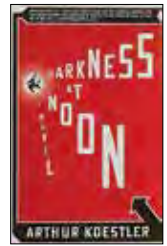
Sunday, March 13

Darkness at Noon

by Arthur Koestler

9:30 am Nosh 10 am Discussion

Originally published in 1941, this masterpiece is a haunting portrait of a Communist revolutionary caught up in the Moscow show trials of the late 1930s.



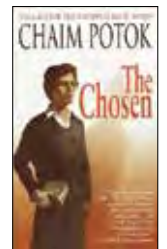
Sunday, May 15

The Chosen

by Chaim Potok

9:30 am Nosh 10 am Discussion

The now-classic story of two fathers and two sons, the pressures of religious conformity, and the lure of alternative lives and possibilities.



Facilitated by UCLA Professor
Charles Lynn Batten

A master teacher. Immensely popular and thought-provoking.



Year Round Enrollment



18 Months to Pre-K

Beit HaYeladim Preschool

Beit HaYeladim strives to instill an intense feeling of pride in being Jewish.

The curriculum integrates Jewish culture and values, building a strong foundation of education and Jewish life for the future.

For more information contact: Julie Ehrnstein, Director julie@cbbsb.org

Shabbat at CBB

Kabbalat Shabbat Friday Night Services at 6 PM

75 minutes of spirited and spiritual song, meditation, prayer, learning, and re-connecting to friends, tradition, community, God and self.

Stay afterwards for our Oneg Shabbat of savory and sweet foods to eat while you make new friends and connect with the old.

1st Friday of each month
includes our Shir Hadash Adult Choir

2nd Friday of each month
additional Tot Shabbat at 5:30 PM

3rd Friday of each month
enjoy Ruach Shabbat with our Temple Band

Spring Speakers

Lifelong Learning at CBB

This spring CBB is proud to present a wonderful group of influential speakers. Don't miss the opportunity to hear from these leading voices of cultural, political, social, and spiritual Judaism!



Linda Stein Artist
"Holocaust Heroes: Fierce Women"
Tuesday, March 15



Fred Davis Political Strategist
Election 2016
Sunday Morning Live, March 27



Dr. Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg
World-renowned Torah scholar
and teacher
Monday, May 16



Rabbi Jack Moline
Named by Newsweek as "one of the
most influential rabbis in America"
Sunday Morning Live, June 5



Religious School at CBB



Our Journey: A Program of Jewish
Learning and Community for Grades k-12



At CBB, we are on this journey together.
Please join us.

For more information and to register contact:
Jennifer Lewis, Religious School Administrator
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CBB Resources Guide

Mission Statement

Congregation B'nai B'rith is a diverse, inclusive community of individuals and families building together a warm and vibrant house of living Judaism.

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Gift Shop

The Gift Shop is open weekdays
12:30–5:00pm. For more information email
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IDEAS FOR A STORY? PHOTOS TO SHARE? INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING?

Be a part of Voices

Contact Paul Zakrzewski at 805/964-7869
or paul@cbbsb.org.

INTERESTED IN Becoming a CBB Member?

Contact Elizabeth Gaynes at 805/964-7869
ext 111 or elizabeth@cbbsb.org.

ARE YOU 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 at 805/964-7869.

VOICES is a publication offered free of charge

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Coming Home

By Rabbi Steve Cohen

Like so many others in our community, I came here from somewhere else.

After growing up in Rochester, New York, I spent my twenties as a “wandering Jew,” living in Boston, Israel, Los Angeles, and New York City. I arrived in Santa Barbara twenty-eight years old, and spent my first ten years here assuming that I would eventually move back East. It was many years before I really came to think of Santa Barbara as home.

IT TOOK YEARS of living, and raising a family, experiencing fires, floods and drought; hiking our trails in winter rain and summer heat; burying good friends and seeing little babies grow into teenagers, go to college, get married and become parents of their own little babies. Slowly, while we are not paying attention, a place becomes home.

The same goes for an entire community. For us Jews of Santa Barbara, this place has become home. It has taken almost one hundred years.

When Congregation B'nai B'rith was first established in 1927, the total population of Santa Barbara was just over 30,000, of

whom a tiny handful were Jews. Mostly small merchants, eking out a living in modest shops on State Street. It took enormous chutzpah for Jews to settle in this place back then, a universe away from the centers of American Jewish life. Slowly, over the decades, this community of tough and feisty Jews carved out a home here.

Our Jewish history in Santa Barbara has not been all warm and fuzzy. There have been passionate disputes, splits, meltdowns and explosions. But also phenomenal creativity, deep Jewish learning, boisterous celebrations, passionate support for and debate about Israel and generous care for our needy.

Now here we are, approaching the 90th anniversary of this congregation, and almost one hundred years since the first documented Jewish services, in 1920. As we look back we realize how far we have come from the tiny shul first created ninety years ago by our Founders. We are no longer just a shul. Through infinite hard work, persistence and dedication, our congregation has become the most significant cultural, educational and religious center for Jewish life between the San Fernando Valley and the Bay Area.

We have at last made Santa Barbara our home. ■

Photos (L-R): The Santa Barbara Street temple circa 1961; Lester and Viola Girsh 15th anniversary at Temple, 1942; Yale Coggan on the site of the current temple late 1960s; present location opens in 1968.

Shelter 2005

By Carol DeCanio

When my youngest son phones
And says there's a bit of bad news

He's being sent to Iraq
I still talk normal

But after
It's all wild

And the question
Who can help me?

I flee

I get in that car
And flee

Until I reach
The only shelter I can bear

In the canyons
In the waiting of the trees

And the fragrance
I cannot get enough of

Everything is different here
And I have no expertise

Yet I feel not excluded
For whatever I see, it is enough

Enough for the sage
In among the others

And for the insect on its way
To the depths of crevice

No lack in the mountain range
Or whatever passes above

No lack in variety
Nothing I can think of

Even for this human
On this trail

No lack

We Welcome Our New Members

June 2015-December 2015

The Nisen Family	The Mussman Family
The Goldyne Family	Ze'ev Zalk and Shireen Qureshi
Brianna Sapp and Dennis Tivey	Leonard and Sandra Himelsein
The Holmes Family	The Edelheit Family
Dave and Vicki Halpern	Rose Edelson
Julie Levine Rubin	The Jones Family
The Withee Family	The Kabaretti Family
Jerry and Jennifer Chafkin	Kelsey Bray
Al and Norine Lever	Jill Lord Simonson
The Dworsky Family	The Rappoport Family
Heidi Helfand	Kate Smith
Steven and Jill Cohen	
Dale Nutter	

THANKS TO YOU, Congregation B'nai B'rith is able to actively fulfill our mission of creating a warm and vibrant house of living Judaism.

If you are interested in membership, please contact Elizabeth Gaynes, Executive Director at elizabeth@cbbsb.org or 805/964-7869 ext. 111



L-R: Cantors Mark Childs and Herschel Fox, Marsha and Jay Glazer, Rabbi Steve Cohen.



**SAVE
— the —
DATE**

**“My Cantor...
The Doctor!”:
A Special
Concert
May 22, 2016**

A special concert to celebrate the convocation of Cantor Mark Childs's honorary PhD from Hebrew Union College with special guests—Cantor's graduating class!

Summertime Cantor's Concert: A Reflection

By Cantor Mark Childs

When the chemistry of ambiance, food, music, and warmth of spirit mix in the proper amounts you are liable to experience a peak moment of joy. Jay and Marsha Glazer opened their hearts and home to just such an opportunity this past August 30, 2015, and the good chemistry was evident.

IN AN AFTERNOON that honored and appreciated many of the generous members of CBB (contributions of over \$10,000 in the past year), the Glazers home was the perfect venue. Their legendary art collection was on display for all who took the opportunity to meander throughout.

A catered meal of savory hors d'oeuvres

kept people mingling and chatting as they noshed until everyone was invited to the back patio where the entertainment commenced. Along with Cantor Herschel Fox and pianist Bob Remstein, we sang and played against the backdrop of a setting sun over an expansive ocean view.

A mixed repertoire of Yiddish, music theater, cantorial, and Israeli songs along with Cantor Fox's borscht-belt comedy kept everyone in tears and laughter. Past CBB President Daniel Hochman lent a hand (and voice) to a skewering duet with me on my longevity at CBB. It was a beautiful afternoon of entertainment, gratitude, and community.

Thank you to the Glazers for hosting such an elegant and upbeat event. We are

deeply grateful to the members of our congregation who are able and willing to give above and beyond so that we can meet CBB's budget needs each year. As our congregation continues to grow in breadth and depth, we rely on your generosity to sustain CBB and allow our congregation to continue to thrive. Thank you!

Speaking of Cantor's longevity at CBB... he will be celebrating the **25th anniversary of his ordination with a gala concert on May 22nd at CBB** that will feature members of his cantorial school graduating class of 1991. Because the cantors will be celebrating their receiving an honorary doctorate from their seminary, Hebrew Union College, they are calling the concert "My Cantor...the Doctor!" Save the date. ■

New Effort to Sustain CBB's Future

By Marina Stephens



Although my family and I are relative newcomers to CBB (members since 2009, as compared to CBB's almost 90-year history) I am thrilled to be a part of the new, exciting and vibrant development efforts happening in our congregation.

Over the last few years, CBB has embarked upon a very important journey to ensure a successful financial future for our diverse and remarkable community.

Spurred on by a generous gift from the Girsh and Hochman Families, our Board of Trustees brought in Dusty Heist-Levine as our first professional director of development. Dusty has been hard at work, in partnership with me and our Temple leadership, driving important efforts to engage our community with CBB, and to engage us all in our own important roles.

As part of our efforts, and as we look forward to CBB's 90th anniversary in the coming year, we have undertaken a process of looking back in order to move forward. We are looking at the people, events, and lessons of our past, to inform us fully of who we are as a Jewish community and congregation today, and what we will become in the future.

CBB was the first Jewish institution in Santa Barbara. The place that Jews in our community first organized to build the foundations of Jewish life from which we all benefit today. There is so much to learn from them, their stories, and the generations that followed; and it begs the question: what story will our generation tell to those who come next?

We saw a powerful glimpse of this effort at CBB's recent Legacy Luncheon, honoring our Jewish community's WWII veterans.



**Daniel Hochman
speaks at the
Legacy Luncheon**

In an extraordinary moment, 18 members of our Jewish community took the stage, all veterans of WWII. As we watched them on stage and screen, sharing lessons from that time and how that experience shaped their lives, everyone present was not only moved by the heroism and sacrifice of these men, but connected and enriched as a Jewish community.

We were in awe of the sacrifice their generation made so that our future could be better. We felt connected as Jews to a community and time many of us have not experienced, but that had such consequences for who we are today. And we felt inspired by what we might do to carry on the legacy of our honorees and community, for future generations.

Daniel Hochman articulated this in his poignant remarks during the Legacy Luncheon as he expanded on an important message we learned from our honorees: that before great feats can be accomplished, we must first show up. In Daniel's message, "The Future Through the Past," he reminded us that, whether it be achieving victory in WWII, or the founding of our Jewish community in Santa Barbara, history is made up of a collection of anecdotes, each one describing ordinary people who showed up to accomplish extraordinary things:

In all of these stories, from the Torah to world politics to our Congregation, we answer the call by taking action in the present. While we ask, "How can I learn from our stories of past heroics, and preserve a meaningful and value-filled future," we recognize that action today is the only answer.

And so we look to the past for heroes to inspire us. We look forward to imagine a world on which we left our mark. And we show up today, with intention, to do what we are able with only the imperative that we show up. We show up in the smiles we give and in the tears we share.

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Album of WWII Vets and Legacy Award Honorees

Honoring their legacy of heroism, courage and service in defending and securing our futures as Americans and Jews.

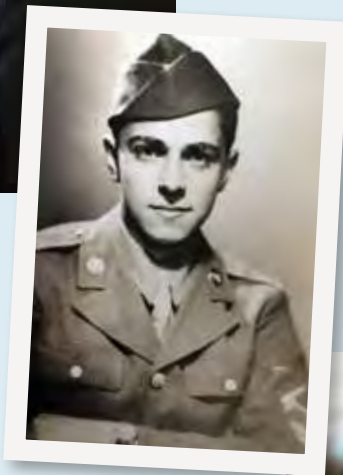
Read their stories online at cbbsb.org



Richard Alpert
Born in New York City
U.S. ARMY
SCOUT

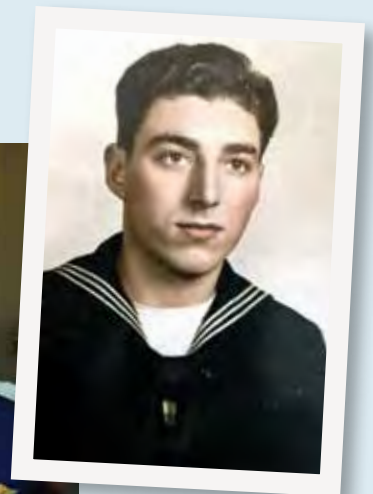


Ralph Baxter
Born in Germany
U.S. ARMY
INTELLIGENCE



The 2015 Legacy Award was presented to Santa Barbara's Jewish WWII veterans at the Children of the Covenant Luncheon on November 15, 2015.

Len Berman
Born in Connecticut
U.S. NAVY
MUSICIAN SPECIALIST





Eric Boehm
Born in Germany
U.S. ARMY AIR CORPS
INTERROGATION
OFFICER



Rubin Boxer
Born in Brooklyn NY
U.S. NAVY
ELECTRONICS ENGINEER



Albert Gabie
Born in Kansas City, MO
U.S. ARMY
INFANTRY

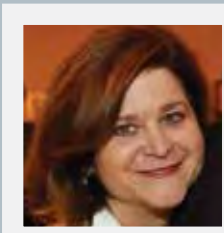


Harold Gold
Born in Los Angeles
U.S. ARMY AIR
CORPS
TEST PILOT

Jerry Harris
Born in Minneapolis
U.S. ARMY
MEDICAL SPECIALIST



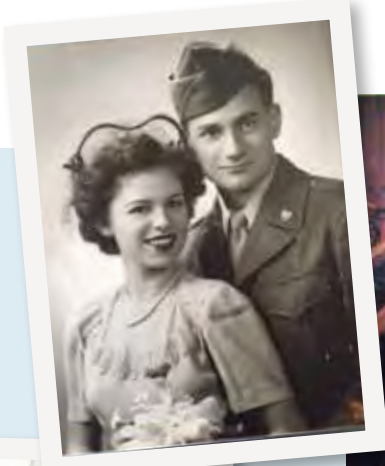
Remarks by Kate Carter, filmmaker, on interviewing Legacy Award honorees:



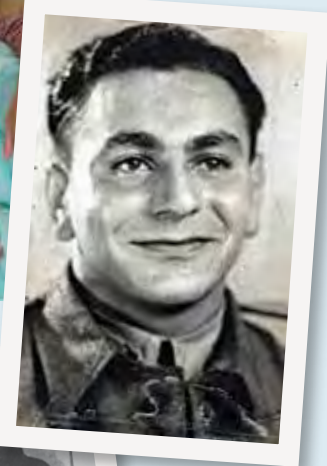
"Several things struck me while interviewing the honorees. First of all, I'm a mother of two sons. I know in

all the pictures and movies that our honorees look like men. But these were boys. Many of them were only eighteen—just leaving their mother's home for the first time, or leaving their home town for the first time. And it was remarkable what they went out in the world to do. Secondly, sitting with them, it was as if it happened yesterday. Even for those who are having some trouble with their memory, it was all very fresh for them. Thirdly, the most important thing—the thing that comes across in each of the hour-long interviews we did—is that these men knew exactly what they were fighting for. So we salute you today, and thank you today."

Bert Karin
Born in New York City
U.S. ARMY
ARMORER



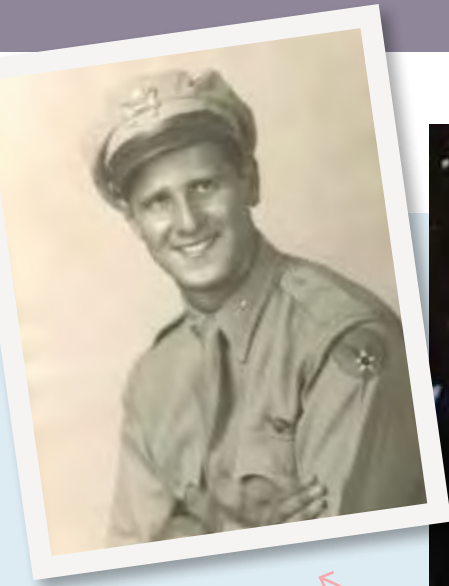
Sid Krumholz
Born in New York City
U.S. ARMY
INFANTRY



Benjamin Lipman
Born in London, England
BRITISH ROYAL ARMY
HEAVY ARTILLERY GUNNER

Oscar Lowenschuss
Born in Germany
U.S. NAVY
ELECTRONICS ENGINEER





Jack Nadel

Born Brooklyn, NY
U.S. ARMY AIR CORPS
B-29 SUPERFORTRESS NAVIGATOR &
RADAR OFFICER



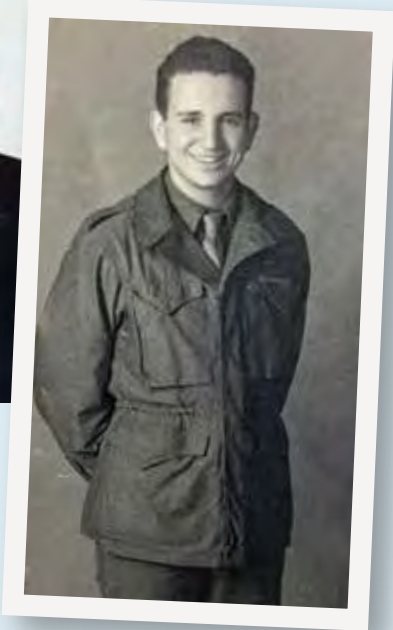
Howard Smith

Born in Utah
U.S. ARMY AIR CORPS
B-17 FLYING FORTRESS PILOT



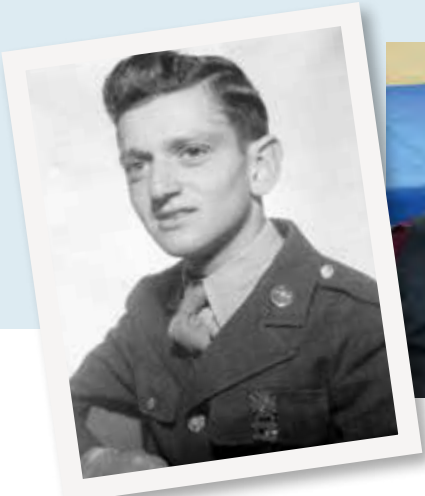
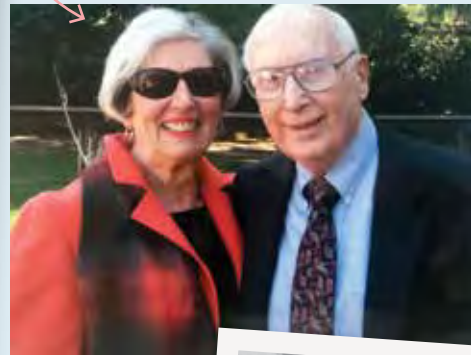
Bernhard Penner

Born in Germany
U.S. ARMY
INFANTRY RIFLEMAN



Robert Wechter

Born in Chicago
U.S. NAVY
Supply Officer



Leonard Rosenfield

Born in Minnesota
U.S. ARMY
INTELLIGENCE



CBB Supports Program Aimed At Helping SB Homeless

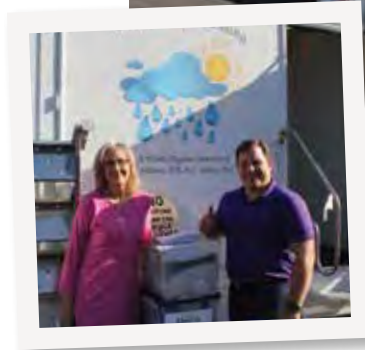
By *Dusty Heist-Levine, CBB Director of Development*

CBB is at an exciting moment in our congregation's history. Never before has our congregation been blessed with as many members as we have today. Never before has our Temple provided the huge number of programs, services, and educational, prayer, cultural, and social opportunities as we do today. Never before has CBB employed the number of professional staff dedicated every day to each one of YOU — our members — to creating the most meaningful and vibrant Jewish experiences possible for you and our community.

IT IS AN EXCITING TIME, a time of growth, and a time to look and plan for our congregation's future. It is also a time that CBB has approached members to ask for your financial support; support that allows our congregation to continue to thrive and serve our community today, while establishing our foundation and vision for the future.

It is in the context of my daily efforts to grow our congregation's financial support of CBB, that this past summer several congregants posed a very understandable question to me: "Dusty, if you are so focused on raising important funds to support CBB, why are you also asking us to give financial support to a program that has nothing to do with CBB? Especially when our congregation has great needs of our own?"

The program they were referring to was Showers of Blessing—a local initiative for which our CBB community raised over \$20,000 to support, all in a matter of weeks this past summer. Showers of Blessing operates a mobile facility that provides homeless individuals in Santa Barbara and Goleta with the gift



of a shower, food, and clean clothes; giving dignity and hope while helping to improve the lives and opportunities of our community's most vulnerable members.

The funds we raised make CBB the largest donor to Showers of Blessing, representing over one third of their annual operating budget. Our gift allowed them to begin serving whole new segments of Santa Barbara's homeless population, while extending their days and hours of operation for the overall program.

So why did CBB decide to raise significant funds to support this project, when we have such great needs of our own? My answer to this question is simple: it was the right thing to do, the Jewish thing to do, and in the end, it will make CBB better off than if we had not acted.

Each year, every member of our community makes a decision to financially support CBB. What compels each of our decisions is the extent to which CBB brings value to our own lives, and the extent to which CBB empowers us to find and build Jewish community. At CBB we gather to pray, to observe, to remember, to celebrate; to welcome a new baby into the world and to provide comfort and support to a fellow member who has suffered a loss; to educate our children and ourselves; to cook, kibbitz, eat, sing, and dance.

We also gather to act. At CBB, we find the unique capacity

Continued on page 32

Developing The Temple of Our Dreams | *Continued from pg. 1*

had ended and I was still in boot camp, so it was a good experience for a young 18-year-old; I got to see much of the country."

An image that left an imprint with Rubin was the prayer service commemorating the end of the war. "You could look out in the field as far as the eye could see - and there were hundreds of thousands of sailors praying, and then there was a very small, separate room for the 20 or so Jews." It was then that Rubin realized what a small minority the Jews were, yet, he said, he never experienced prejudice.

Judaism was always part of Rubin's life. His parents and grandparents emigrated from Russia and settled in New York. He and his three siblings were raised in an

Orthodox home. Rubin learned to read Hebrew like many others, "without understanding." He met his wife on the beach of Coney Island and they have been married for 66 years.

Rubin worked as an engineer for the Air Force in Ohio, earning just \$2,900 per year. After Dayton, he worked for the Air Force in Rome, NY, receiving a number of citations. Seeking change, Rubin pursued work in the private sector, eventually relocating to Santa Barbara. He stayed with this job, at Flow General, now part of AT&T, until his retirement as executive vice president, while seeming to always have a business idea brewing on the side.

For instance, when his wife got tired of sorting socks (she had four kids!), he and his son Robert patented a sock-sorting device. He also taught himself coding and developed a diet program called "Cut the

Baloney" in addition to creating an acclaimed software technology used in horse racing. A mathematical paper that he wrote in the 1950s appears in text books and is still cited today.

While his mind is still sharp and inventive, these days Rubin can be found spending time with his family, which includes three grandchildren, the most recent addition a 3-year-old granddaughter. He hopes that one day she will attend CBB and reap the rewards of the temple he helped to build.

"I take a lot of inner warmth at seeing how competent the people that came after me were and are at developing this temple into something we only dreamed about." ■

Ann Pieramici, a longtime CBB member and Interfaith Outreach Coordinator, is a public relations consultant and freelance writer and serves on several local Boards of Trustees.

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At **CBB**,
YOUR Jewish journey
is **OUR** story.

Through the generous support of our members and donors, CBB is able to open our doors to all in our community seeking a home for:

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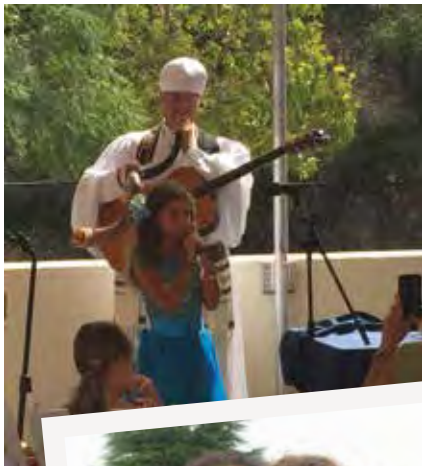
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High Holy Days





Sukkah Raising

With the Men of B'nai B'rith and Artist Jana Brody

The 2015 Legacy Luncheon

Elena Magat, Michelle Levin and Natalie Gaynes with Mrs. Raymond King Myerson.



Below: Shir Hadash choir performance.

Right: Rabbi Suzy Stone with honoree Ralph Baxter.



Award presenter Brigadier General Frederick Lopez.



Dale Nissenson with honoree Jack Nadel.



L-R: State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, Santa Barbara Mayor Helene Schneider, and (ret) Superior Court Judge George Eskin.

Exhibit of WWII-era uniforms and artifacts on loan from Pierre Claeysens Veterans Foundation.



L-R: Judi Koper, Rabbi Steve Cohen, Nancy Spielberg, Elizabeth Gaynes, and Dusty Heist-Levine.



Rabbi Cohen with Lundy and Fred Reynolds, announcing the Reynolds' \$1 million lead gift to the endowment campaign.

Nancy Spielberg with moderator Peter Melnik, chair of the Santa Barbara Israel committee.



Featured speakers Nancy Spielberg with Brigadier General Lopez.



Hanukkah



Santa Barbara Pride March



About CBB's Caring Community By Alan Levy



The CBB **Caring Community** provides us with ways to support members during challenging times. As a member of CBB you are part of a community that cares. We come together in celebration of births and other simchas, support each other during times of illness, and comfort one another when we lose loved ones.



Many times things just come together without much organizing — family, friends, or a havurah offer support when needed. Sometimes, though, members of the congregation may not have a network of close friends or family in town. Or, perhaps, friends might need advice on how to help someone going through a difficult time. It is in these situations where the Caring Community Committee organizes CBB members to help provide the needed support.



For more information or to sign up to participate, please visit the "Our Community" section of the CBB website at cbbsb.org or contact Alan Levy, Caring Community Chairperson, at Alan_Levy@cox.net, or Audrey Okaneko in the CBB office at audrey@cbbsb.org.

Here are some of the ways in which the Caring Community currently serves our congregation:

- Stone Soup: Homemade Soup Preparation and Delivery
- Meal Delivery for Parents of a Newborn
- Chesed Helpers: Support for Members Facing a Serious Illness
- Caring Visitors: Weekly Visits to Homebound Members
- Mental Health Initiative: Promoting Wellness and Reduction of Stigma Through Education and Peer Support
- Mi Shebeirach List: Healing Prayers
- Bereavement: Support for Shiva Minyanim

Everyone Needs Help Sometimes

By Sheila Golburgh Johnson – member, Caring for the Caregivers Support Group



THESE WORDS were spoken by the leader of our "Caring for Caregivers" group, and even though

I scoffed, I wondered if that group might be for me. Not likely, I thought, since I had long turned up my nose at support groups like this one.

After all, I had raised two children, taken care of my father for ten years after my mother died, and was an independent

woman. I could take care of myself, I decided.

Yet when my husband developed Alzheimer's disease and the patience I prayed for daily did not develop, I thought I might give the group a try. I could always leave. Yet when I attended for the first time and discovered that there were people worse off than I am, and that there were many community agencies to which I could turn for help, my attitude changed.

I decided that we helped each other, and that just being there and finding others who were willing to share their burdens

was itself therapeutic. I attended eagerly, and when our leader, a therapist for many years, moved to another city, he suggested that we keep the group going by ourselves.

We've had only one meeting since then, but another is scheduled. I find that I need the other members of the group to find out how to deal with the overwhelming problems we all face at one time or another. I am glad that I took a chance and joined in, for it doesn't mean that I am weak or less independent. If anything, I feel stronger now, and more capable.

Congregation B'nai B'rith as Experienced by a Retired Rabbi

By Rabbi Ira Youdovin

A retired rabbi who moves from pulpit to pew often feels like a retired sea captain who sails on another captain's vessel. It's nice being spared the responsibility of keeping the ship afloat and heading in the right direction. But one misses being at the helm.

HAPPILY, I was spared this psychological dislocation when I retired and moved to Santa Barbara seven years ago. Having spent most of my career serving in non-congregational positions — as executive director of Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) and, later, as executive vice president of Chicago Board of Rabbis — I was accustomed to sitting in the pews listening to, and most often enjoying, a colleague's sermon.

But if dislocation wasn't a problem, relocation was. Although I hadn't been the rabbi of a congregation, my entire working environment was deeply enmeshed in Jewish communal life. I was a Jewish professional 24/7. (Or, as my Orthodox friends like to say, 24/6.) What I was hoping to find here in Santa Barbara was a congregation that would provide at least some of the high quality and profoundly spiritual experiences that had enriched my Jewish life in Chicago and New York.

To an extent I could not have imagined, CBB has done that. Its inspiring worship services, challenging adult education, social activism, and the outstanding speakers and teachers it brings to our community make for an incredible diversity of avenues through which men, women and

children with diverse interests and needs can enter into an engagement with Jewish living. There's something here for everyone; even a retired rabbi like me!

My own involvement in CBB encompasses Shabbat Morning Torah Study, Mashey Bernstein's Short Story Group, working alongside Ken Rotman at Sunday Morning Live, Shabbat and Holiday wor-

"There's something here for everyone; even a retired rabbi like me!"

ship, and the new Daily Minyan to which I commute from my home in Montecito whenever I'm able. Every activity has its own cadre of "regulars" who have shared interests which are the seeds from which friendships sprout. The brilliantly conceived "Seven Circles of Jewish Life" Rabbi Cohen applies as a template for CBB describe not merely a community but a community of communities.

Community is the hallmark of CBB. Over the past 45 years, I've been privileged to visit many congregations throughout North America and even some overseas. In only a very few of them does one find the atmosphere of mutual concern and



respect among members, and between members and staff, that one finds here in Santa Barbara.

Yes, we have disagreements. Contentiousness is in our Jewish DNA. But while differences of opinion can, and too often do, rend a congregation into warring factions, at CBB these are addressed with civility.

Last year, Rabbi Cohen devoted a High Holiday sermon to Israeli policy, an incendiary issue that many colleagues call the "third rail of preaching." A recent survey by the Jewish Council for Public

Affairs found that a majority of the rabbis responding were afraid to preach about Israel for fear of igniting a controversy that could lead to resignations. Rabbi Cohen delivered his message, and then attended a meeting open to anyone who wanted to discuss it. The discussion was animated, even angry at times. But participants came away satisfied that they had been able to express their views. That's the CBB way of doing things.

The spirit of mutuality emanates from the top. Rabbis Cohen and Stone, and Cantor Childs, are remarkable leaders whose love for Judaism invigorates their love

Continued on page 32

July 2015 - December 2015

Mazel Tov! *In Our Lives*



1. To Jill and Steven Cohen on the birth of Rory Cohen, born on July 5.

2. To parents Garrett and Lauren Reynolds, sibling Banyan, and grandparents Fred and Lundy Reynolds, on the birth of Elora Dylan Reynolds, born on April 26.

3. To parents Jennifer Smithwick and Max Drucker, and siblings Solomon, Lesley, and Sasha Drucker on the birth of Olive Law Drucker, born on November 19.



4. To Julia and Matt Meyer on the birth of Vivienne Rose Meyer, born on August 22.



What Being Jewish Means To Me

By Riva Brody

The Harry Kirsch Award is presented annually to students for writing an outstanding essay and for their involvement in activities demonstrating Jewish values. Mazel Tov to Riva Brody, this year's recipient of the Kirsch Award.

1. Describe your present involvement at CBB. Include things like Temple Youth Group, serving as a madrich/a, etc.

This year with Confirmation, we have done many impactful things ranging from food drives to visiting Planned Parenthood; however, the L'Taken Washington D.C. trip was the most important part for me.

Now, I hate to be cliché, but it was so incredible to have the lobbying experience for someone who is considering a communications major and wants to converse with people for a future occupation. Do you know how teachers always advise you to pick your topic based on the subject matter you're most interested in, not the people who you want to "hang out with"? I was determined to not be the student who conforms her ideals to be in a lobbying group with friends.

I could sense that some of my peers were following this path, but I really wanted to research a topic that I was genuinely interested in. After attending three semi-

nars that highlighted the injustices that LGBTQ, disabled people, and minorities face, I decided to lobby for the ADA or the Americans with Disabilities Act. This personally connects to my life since my dad is deaf. Although he doesn't think of himself as disabled (and neither do I), according to the definition of disabled (having a physical or mental condition that limits movements, senses, or abilities) he technically is.

I decided that it was important for my personal integrity to stand up for the people that are just as capable of doing "normal" things, but face discrimination from future employers. Through this experience, I got to speak to people from Congress and their representatives, and to teach my peers sign language.

We all signed a quote at the end of our speech and it was moving for me to see that my peers were interested in the language that is so regular to my household conversations. Also, when reviewing our speech, my group was paired with a politician's publicist. His brief job descrip-

tion inspired me to look into his job for a future career. The L'Taken trip, especially lobbying, was a really impactful trip for me because, through lobbying, I learned many things about discrimination and social action and got to stand up for something I truly believe in.

2. Describe your present involvement in the Jewish Community at large (i.e., camp, federation, clubs).

My Jewish identity has changed since my bat mitzvah because I have become more aware of current events happening worldwide to Jews and other groups that face similar discrimination. During my bat mitzvah, I was so focused on learning my Torah portion and completing bat mitzvah challenges that I didn't take time to focus on the world around me.

Personally, I think that having a bar/bat mitzvah at 13 isn't the best time to become a Jewish adult, as our bodies are still changing and maturing. Now that I am older, I know more about the world and my Jewish self and am comfortable discussing modern events that a younger me may have found disturbing.

I am a Jew because it gives me a place and community to affiliate myself with, a place where I know I can be supported. I like to think that all Jewish people are



somewhat connected, and in a local way this is true. The people I spend my time with during Confirmation are people I have a strong bond with. This bond has helped me shape my Jewish identity because of the ongoing support I have from my peers and community.

Being Jewish gives me a sense of belonging and a community that I will always have no matter where I go in the world. We used to sing a song in preschool that basically said “wherever you go, there’s always going to be someone Jewish.” I like having a place and religion to affiliate myself with. Although I am not a strict follower of the Jewish law and find some things in the Torah debatable, I absolutely consider myself Jewish through and through.

3. Describe your present involvement in non-Jewish activities which demonstrate Jewish values (e.g., community service, etc.)

After high school, I honestly don’t know what I plan to do in the Jewish community. I will most likely join a Hillel in college, and join a temple wherever I plan to live. I’m going to be honest — I’m not one hundred percent sure what I am going to do. I do know, however, that I want to raise my kids Jewish. Growing up in this wonderful

Jewish community was really impactful because I have made so many Jewish friends that I know I will have for life.

Ever since preschool, I have been learning about Jewish values, and I think this has helped shape me as a person. Judaism teaches values like loving your neighbor, respecting your parents, and helping clean up the world. These values are necessary for any child to know, regardless of religion, but the fact that I had these ideas implanted in me through Judaism stresses the importance of keeping my religion and passing it to my children. I would only hope that I can be as strong a contributor to the Jewish community as my parents are, and I would hope that my kids can be inspired by me in the future.

Throughout my life, it may be hard to remain a constant member in the Jewish community, but right now I am making a conscious effort to try my absolute hardest. Being Jewish is an important part of my identity and I always want to cherish this community and the values it has taught me. ■

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The Art of Sitting Shiva

By Julia Rosza Smith

When Rabbi Cohen and Rabbi Stone asked me to speak at the Yizkor service this past Yom Kippur, it gave me the opportunity to reflect on my journey of mourning. Dealing with death is universal and yet unique for each of us. Here's my story about life after losing both my mother and my sister within ten months of each other and the impact of Jewish traditions and rituals.

The same morning my husband of 32 years had an unexpected cardiac operation that saved his life, my mother Lisa, who had been quite feisty and fit as a fiddle until two weeks before, died on April 4, 2012.

Ten days later, my vibrant sister Eve was diagnosed with leukemia. Both Eve and Lisa were well known for their outspoken and strong-willed personalities. Losing these two women I was so close to was an unimaginable and devastating loss for my family and me.

And, oh yes, our lovely daughter Lana was getting married six weeks later! The silver lining was that both Eve and Howard were at our daughter's wedding less than two months after all the hullabaloo and it was marvelous to be all together with our friends and our families. I felt Lisa's presence as Cantor remembered her on that special day.

Later, Rabbi Cohen asked us two questions:

Number One: What is it that I want from Judaism?



L-R: Lisa Rosza, Julia's daughter Lana, Eve Senn, Julia Smith

Judaism gives me beautiful traditions and rituals. On Friday nights I love lighting Shabbat candles, using a special tablecloth and blessing the challah and wine. As a child, Jewish life was full: we regularly attended the only synagogue between Cairo and Johannesburg that my father designed in Nairobi, Kenya. We were a small community of 150 families and Jewish traditions were deeply ingrained in my upbringing. Both my parents were from conservative Jewish families and communities and as refugees of the Holocaust they kept to their beliefs faithfully, celebrating every holiday. They were very involved in synagogue life.

When my mother passed away, it was the ritual of shiva and coming to temple every week that helped me honor her memory and heal from her passing. I was a mess. My mother had been a survivor. She was interesting and interested in many events from history to opera, from bridge to art.

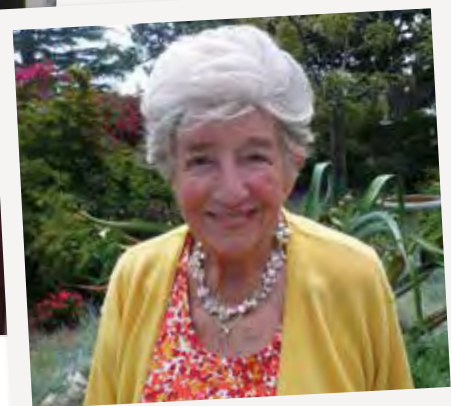
The funeral and shiva for my mother was a blur. I felt I had to host the shiva and greet the mourners and make sure everyone was comfortable. What I didn't realize

until later was that there was not much time to just sit and be in a quiet place.

And then my sister's diagnosis hit us just ten days later. Eve was larger than life: she had so much energy. She was curious about people, cooking, gardening, and politics. She sparkled. She loved to travel and have fun, meet new people and go on adventures. She was a loving sister, friend and mother and especially grandmother. When I was seventeen, I followed Eve to Switzerland and later to California. She was my role model. She was the leader.

Eve was so sick that first month from treatments. There was so much emotion... I was pulled apart into six directions. Who should I be with? My sister lying in the hospital? My husband at home who was also very frail? My job? Being a supportive parent? Last on the list was taking care of myself. It was more than I'd ever had to cope with.

The hardest part about mourning is balancing priorities. The toughest for me was packing up my mother's apartment in Maravilla, then visiting Eve in the hospital every day and making sure my



L-R: Lisa, Eve, Julia; Top: Eve; Bottom: Lisa

husband was recovering. As my husband was slowly getting better, Eve was getting worse and worse. She had a stem cell operation in September 2014 at City of Hope and I couldn't go there as often as I would have liked. I felt so guilty and my very being was being pulled apart. She tried so hard to beat cancer, but died at the end of February 2014. I was curled up next to her as she took her last breaths.

Many people came to Eve's funeral and to the house to sit shiva with us. It was a celebration of her life and I was grateful for the support. In hindsight, I realize now that it was another time I felt I had to be the hostess. Instead of taking the time to stop and grieve, I was using this tradition to distract myself and fall into the old habits of taking care of others, instead of letting them take care of me. Because the truth is, we want things to be the way they were. Fortunately, Rabbi Cohen came to get me and told me: you don't have to greet the mourners; come and sit with your family.

There are things that are hard to face

when grieving that we don't have the answer to. We are not taught, nor do we speak about what you have to deal with when death happens. There are many remnants of things to do when someone dies after you've cleaned up their belongings and done the paperwork. When do you delete their telephone number? Email? How about their answering machine voice? What to do with the feelings of hurt that haven't quite been resolved? What do you do with the multiple truths of a relationship? What do you do when you really have to tell them something important? Is there a ritual for that?

Number Two: What does Judaism want from me?

My grief and loss experience has created an opportunity for me to help others who are going through a hard time. I have been asked to work with the temple's Caring Community as the shiva liaison. I see how the use of rituals helped get me through the most painful times of my life. I hope you won't need me, but if

you or your family do, I will be the one to tell you that it's okay for the shiva to be as simple as you like; you can have just family and close friends. If you want a big to-do, that's all right as well. No matter what size shiva you choose, make sure you look after yourself during this time of mourning. You do not have to be the host or hostess; you don't have to make people comfortable. Give them the pleasure of looking after you. Your friends and family will be there for you in the days, weeks and even years to come.

And to you, friends, please don't forget that mourning can take quite a while and a week or two or ten weeks later is as good a time to call, send a card, bring a meal. It doesn't have to be done in the first three days after the funeral.

Take the time to have rituals with your family, and with your community. It will connect you to your past, present, and future. ■

Remembering Thomas Blatt (1927-2015)

By Eli Rosenbaum

I had the extraordinary and truly unforgettable privilege of knowing Tom Blatt for more than 20 years, and it hardly seems possible that this brilliant, inspiring, generous, warm-hearted, hugely accomplished man — and let us say it, since Hollywood isn't very far from here, a man with “movie star good looks” too — is no longer with us.

I met Tom Blatt for the first time in October 1995, when he traveled to Washington, DC, to accept an award at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. I knew him by reputation; he was already a leading figure in the history, and especially the “after-history,” of the Holocaust, one of the most prominent survivors of the Shoah.

I had been invited to the award ceremony because of my position then as director of the unit at the United States Department of Justice responsible for tracking down, investigating, and prosecuting Nazi war criminals who escaped to this country after World War II.

The Holocaust Museum's award was conferred in honor of the exceptional courage of Jewish inmates who, under the magnificent leadership of Jewish Soviet Army officer Aleksandr “Sasha” Pechersky, rebelled against the SS killers at the Nazis' infamous Sobibor death camp in German-occupied Poland and carried out what we know today as the legendary Sobibor Uprising of October 14, 1943 — one of the greatest stories of resistance against oppression, and also one of the greatest escape stories, in the annals of human history.

Tom was just 16 years old at the time of the uprising. He was known then by the nickname of “Toivi.” He, his parents, and his younger brother Hersz had been deported by German occupation forces to the Sobibor camp six months earlier from the family's hometown of Izbica, Poland. By the time of the uprising, at least 170,000 Jews, primarily from Poland, France, and



the Netherlands, had already been systematically murdered at Sobibor.

The vast majority of the victims — men, women, children, even babies — had been murdered within hours of their arrival, forced into the camp's gas chambers by screaming, whip-wielding SS guards. And so it was, alas, for Tom's beloved mother, father, and brother. In scenes of panic, despair, and agony so extreme as to truly beggar the expression “heart-rending,” entire families were put to death amidst the cries and screams of those who were soon to follow them.

Nazi Germany built and operated literally thousands of concentration camps and labor camps. But just five Nazi camps were human slaughterhouses — death camps, extermination camps, operated for the sole purpose of committing mass murder, of destroying Europe's Jews. Sobibor was one of those five camps. It was surely as close an approximation to hell on earth as has ever existed. The cruelties and terrors perpetrated there, every day for the year-and-a-half of the camp's operational existence, are so ghastly, so gruesome, so grotesque, that they nearly defy description, much less belief.

The odds of carrying out a mass escape, or any escape, from Sobibor were less than minuscule. After all, the so-called “work-Jews” had no weapons of their own. Subsisting on near-starvation rations, they were also severely weakened. The SS officers and guards, on the other hand, were well armed and well fed. The camp, moreover, was enclosed by multiple sets of barbed-wire fencing.



too much for me to handle. There came a point, during the film's initial 1987 airing, at which I simply could not bear the onscreen terror any longer, and so I turned off the TV.

Tragically, most of the would-be escapees lost their lives during the uprising, killed by SS bullets or by landmine detonations. Almost as if by miracle, however, some inmates — fewer than 100 men and women — managed to get away and then somehow survive on the run for the remaining 19 months of the war. Tom was one of them.

SS officials, shocked at the daring and success of Sobibor's Jewish resisters, subsequently massacred the remaining prisoners, closed the camp, bulldozed it, and erased virtually every sign that it had ever been there at all. As Tom later wrote, "Not only had life been taken from the Jews at Sobibor, but the memory of their very existence was being erased."

memory of their very existence was being erased."

The prisoners' rebellion against the murderous SS at Sobibor, like the famed uprising earlier in 1943 at Warsaw's Jewish ghetto and other instances of wartime Jewish resistance, helped mark the return of the Jewish People to their proud biblical tradition as great and valiant fighters in defense of human life and human dignity.

After the war, Tom found love and he married. He became father to three children – Hanna, Rena, and Leonard – plus, so far, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. This was yet another personal victory over Hitler's nearly realized plan to bring an end to his family and his family line.

Tom immigrated to Israel and then to the United States. In this country, he was a very successful businessman. After all the unspeakable horrors that he had witnessed and experienced at the hands of the Nazis, no one would have criticized Tom if he had chosen just to enjoy the fruits of his entrepreneurial success and spend what turned out to be his 70 years of postwar life enjoying the comforts available to him in this country.

But Sasha Pechersky's injunction that if anyone survived, they must inform the world of what had happened at Sobibor,

And even if inmates could somehow cut through those fences before being mowed down by gunfire from SS guards in the watchtowers and on the ground, the area beyond the fencing was heavily booby-trapped with land mines. Traversing those minefields without getting blown to bits was yet another near-impossibility.

Seconds before the Sobibor outbreak was to commence, Sasha Pechersky issued to his fellow resisters the instruction that would come to shape the rest of Tom Blatt's life: "Those of you who may survive," Pechersky declared, "bear witness. Let the world know what has happened here."

Despite his youth, Tom played a key role in the uprising at Sobibor, in which the desperate conspirators succeeded in killing nearly a dozen SS officers and guards in order to make it possible for several hundred inmates to attempt to flee.

In the Golden Globe- and Emmy-winning 1987 CBS Television motion picture *Escape from Sobibor*, Tom was portrayed by actor Jason Norman. The widely viewed CBS film has helped immortalize the Sobibor Uprising, and Tom's role in it. The filmmakers were compelled to leave the savageries of Sobibor mostly to the audience's imagination, but even this heavily sanitized, PG-rated presentation of the reality of Sobibor proved

combined with the almost disabling memories of Sobibor that tormented Tom, led him to take a very different path. He had witnessed so much horror – too much, really, for any person to experience without suffering deep emotional wounds. Not surprisingly, he was, indeed, permanently scarred. As Tom told *The Washington Post* in 1987, “I never left Sobibor. It’s with me every moment of the day. I walk down the street and I look at people and wonder, what would you have done if you had been in Sobibor? That never stops. Sobibor is my reference point.” For the rest of his long life, Tom channeled his painful memories and his grief into an impassioned quest to tell the world.

And so, starting many decades before the invention of the Internet would facilitate such an effort, Tom became almost a one-man, international, Sobibor remembrance campaign.

First, he told the story of Sobibor to investigators and to judges, in order that some measure of justice might be obtained. For some 60 years, he repeatedly made himself available as a witness in investigations and prosecutions of Sobibor’s surviving SS murderers. In doing so, he heroically subjected himself to sometimes cruel grilling by overly aggressive defense attorneys. And by reliving on the witness stand the depredations he had endured at Sobibor, he willingly reopened, in the service of justice, grievous psychic wounds that could never fully heal.

Tom’s testimony in Germany helped convict some of Sobibor’s worst perpetrators. Among them was SS-Oberscharführer Karl Frenzel.

Tom used the occasion of Frenzel’s re-trial to document Nazi crimes in a way that had never been done before and has never been done since. Somehow, through the force of his unique personality, he persuaded the defendant to sit down with him for a recorded interview, and Tom then arranged for publication of parts of the resulting transcript. Imagine the wildly improbable, eerie, even surreal, scene: Thomas Blatt, one of the very few victims to survive Sobibor, sitting down, for fully three hours, at a small table in a hotel restaurant in Germany with one of the camp’s most notorious Nazi mass murderers.

Over the decades, he gave countless presentations, in public schools, in universities, and so many other venues. I was present for a number of those presentations – including, of course, the one that Tom gave at our offices at the Justice Department. I saw firsthand the extraordinarily powerful impact that his presentations had on his audiences, including on my colleagues and me.

Tom did much more — more than I have time even to summarize adequately. He built, again at his own expense, a superb website — sobibor.net — that provides extensive information

about Sobibor. Tom wrote two acclaimed books on the camp. He corresponded by mail and e-mail with hundreds, if not thousands, of people who contacted him with a question about Sobibor.

I found gentleness, kindness, and an unswerving, selfless commitment to combating the virus of hatred that continues to plague humankind.

When I was with Tom, I would invariably study his face. I suppose I was looking for a sign of the bitterness that one might naturally expect to find in a person whose family and so many of his co-religionists were murdered; who endured unspeakable brutalities at Sobibor and additional cruelties in the perilous months that he was on the run following the uprising; who saw that the vast majority of the perpetrators went unpunished after the war; and who, for years, saw his determined efforts to prevent Sobibor from being forgotten imperiled by widespread apathy and indifference.

But I never found bitterness, or rage, in him. I did find frustration and impatience, yes. But mostly I found gentleness, kindness, and an unswerving, selfless commitment to combating the virus of hatred that continues to plague humankind.

I will be forever grateful for Tom’s many kindnesses to me personally. Tom was virtually the embodiment of the post-Holocaust imperatives “Never Again” and “Never Forget.” It is one of the greatest privileges of my life that I got to know him and had multiple opportunities to learn from him. His noble and indefatigable efforts over so many decades, continuing into the very last year of his long and remarkable life, to ensure that the genocide perpetrated by Nazi Germany at Sobibor and elsewhere is never forgotten, that the perpetrators are brought to justice, and that, one day, we will live in a world in which mass atrocity crimes are never again committed — against any group — will be an inspiration to me for the rest of my days. ■

Eli Rosenbaum is the director of Human Rights Enforcement Strategy and Policy at the U.S. Department of Justice. This essay was excerpted from remarks he made at the memorial for Thomas Blatt.



May Their Lives Be **For A Blessing**

July 1, 2015 - December 31, 2015

John Thayer, brother of Rick Mohun

Corey Elias, daughter of Sonya Elias

Ethan Wyner, son of David and Farron Wyner, grandson of Louise Blumberg and Alan Wyner (z"l) and Ronni Allen

Marilyn Epstein, aunt of Joan Rothenberg

Howard Maccabee, father of David Maccabee

Edward Caplan, father of Gail Kahan, father-in-law of John Kahan

Geraldine Toscher, mother of Mark Toscher (z"l), mother-in-law of Pamela Toscher, grandmother of Loren and Alyson

Phillip Nicholson, father of Amy Zimmerman, father-in-law of Craig Zimmerman, grandfather of Charlie and Maisie

Sanford Hartzman, brother-in-law of Ruth Hartzman

Frederica Yamin, wife of Robert Yamin

Roger Chittick, father of Greg Chittick

Jules Cohen, father of Rabbi Steve Cohen, father-in-law of Marian Cohen, grandfather of Rachel (Zachary) and Aryeh

Joseph Roth, father of Meryl Winnikoff, father-in-law of Marc Winnikoff, grandfather of Jacob and Sophia

Ruth Simon, mother of Genie Epstein, mother-in-law of Ira Epstein, grandmother of Stefanie and Sarah

Lillian Winnikoff, mother of Marc Winnikoff, mother-in-law of Meryl Winnikoff, grandmother of Jacob and Sophia

Arthur Siegel, brother of Ed Siegel, brother-in-law of Barbara Siegel

Thomas Blatt, father of Rena Smith, father-in-law of Kent (Ty) Smith, grandfather of Shayna and Masha

Phyllis Sacks, mother of Andee Gaines, mother-in-law of Bobby Gaines, grandmother of Adam and Josh

Nancye Kalis, mother of Karen Solomon, mother-in-law of David Solomon, grandmother of Emily, Julia, and Harrison

Don Lord, father of Jill Lord-Simonson

Marlyn Bernard Bernstein

Jeff Reece, father of Ethan Reece, father-in-law of Hsingyi Lin, grandfather of Levi and Rose

Ha'Makom yentakhem etkhem betokh she'ar avelei Tziyon v'Yerushalayim.
May God console you among the other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

New Development Effort Sustain CBB's Future, continued from pg. 9

We create community with every breath and we want to see it thrive and flourish. So let's place our intention at this pivotal moment. Let us resolve to wake each morning filled with gratitude for what our heroes have done before us, and for the knowledge that we are today creating a future that will be better because of us. We are hearing the call!

Today, we are tomorrow's past. Let's show up.

To see Daniel's full speech, the tribute video of our honorees, and photos from the Legacy Luncheon, please visit CBB's blog at cbsb.org/Legacy-Luncheon. ■

Marina Stephens is Board of Trustees Development Vice-President and a CBB member since 2009.

CBB Supports Local Mobile Showering Unit, continued from pg. 14

to harness the strength of our Jewish community and act on our Jewish values, accomplishing feats that simply could not be done by any one person alone. Our record is impressive. For example, we have helped build a preschool in Rwanda for children affected by genocide, we continually send critical aid to our brothers and sisters in Israel when war rears its ugly face, we have rebuilt arsoned black churches around our country, and through Showers of Blessing we have provided support, hope, and dignity to Santa Barbara's most vulnerable community members. In all of these things, we are acting on the mission and purpose of CBB.

As our members continue to use CBB as vehicle to empower one another to gather as a Jewish community and collectively act on our Jewish values, we will only strengthen our congregation, strengthen the purpose and meaning of CBB in each of our own lives, and in turn strengthen our support — including financial support — of CBB.

There is strength in giving. May we go from strength to strength. ■

Congregation B'nai B'rith as Experienced by a Retired Rabbi, continued from pg. 22

for people and commitment to social justice. They are complemented by lay leaders who share these values. Elizabeth Gaynes and her staff see themselves not merely as functionaries who

make things run efficiently. Their self-perception is more in line with the traditional view that people who labor in a synagogue are *k'lei kodesh*, vessels of holiness who manifest Judaism's highest ideals in everything they do.

Our tradition teaches that a synagogue should be three things: a house of prayer, a house of study, and a house of assembly. But there's a fourth requirement, one that is especially important in today's world: a synagogue should be a house of peace.

Like the biblical Jacob, who sought a place to sleep for the night and discovered that he had come upon the Gateway to Heaven, I retired to Santa Barbara looking for a synagogue that would provide a rich Jewish experience. I found that at CBB, but also much more. In today's turbulent world, finding a sacred place that is also a sanctuary of peace is a gift from God. I'm so very grateful to be here. ■

Rabbi Ira Youdovin led the team that created the ARZA - Association of Reform Zionists of America, serving as its first executive director, and later as executive vice president of the Chicago Board of Rabbis.

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Children of The Covenant

Our determination to ensure the financial wellbeing of our congregation led CBB to establish the Children of the Covenant, a group of individuals who—in order to sustain our Temple for generations to come—have taken the extraordinary step of supporting the CBB Endowment through major financial contributions and/or including Congregation B'nai B'rith in their estate plans. If you would like to support the CBB Endowment, we encourage you to do so and will be happy to assist. To discuss how you can support the CBB Endowment and the future of our congregation, please contact **Dusty Heist-Levine, Director of Development**, at **(805) 964-7869 x104** or **dusty@cbbsb.org**.



Our sincere thanks go to these members of CBB's Children of the Covenant, who have generously endowed the wellbeing of our Temple for generations to come.

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