

# VOICES

CONGREGATION B'NAI B'RITH

Fall 2011 Quarterly Journal Vol. 85 No. 4

Tishrei - Tevet 5772

5772 is Our  
Year of Living Torah

HONOR,  
RESTORE AND  
CELEBRATE OUR  
200 YEAR OLD  
CZECH  
HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
TORAH

Laurie Gross Studios



*Join us as we  
embark on a  
journey this  
year to restore  
our oldest  
treasure. We  
will each have  
an opportunity  
to learn about  
Torah in a  
whole new way.*

Please join us as we gather together to celebrate our High Holy Days



# High Holy Days at CBB

*The work of righteousness shall be peace and the effect of righteousness, quietness and confidence forever.*

*Isaiah 32:17*

## Rosh Hashanah

### Wednesday, September 28

Early Service . . . . . 6:00 pm  
Late Service. . . . . 8:15 pm

### Thursday, September 29

Early Service . . . . . 8:30 am  
Young Family Service . . . . . 10:15 am  
Late Service. . . . . 11:00 am  
Tashlich at Goleta Beach . . . . . 2:30 pm

**HHD Youth Programs and Childcare**  
Go to [www.cbbsb.org](http://www.cbbsb.org)

*Everyone is Welcome! If you are not a CBB member, please contact our office for information: 964-7869 or [audrey@cbbsb.org](mailto:audrey@cbbsb.org)*

## Yom Kippur

### Friday, October 7

Kol Nidre Early Service. . . . . 6:00 pm  
Kol Nidre Late Service . . . . . 8:15 pm

### Saturday, October 8

Early Service . . . . . 8:30 am  
Late Service. . . . . 11:00 am  
Young Family Service . . . . . 2:30 pm  
Afternoon Service . . . . . 3:30 pm  
*Followed by Yizkor and Ne'ilah*

## Yom Kippur Break-Fasts

### Saturday, October 8

Following Ne'ilah . . . . . approx. 7:00 pm

### For the Community

At the home of Barbara and David Mizes  
4885 Via Los Santos  
Down the road from CBB!

### Tribe: CBB's 20s and 30s

At the home of Helen and Dan Curhan  
1122 Corto Camino Ontare

**RSVP for either Break Fast to Benjie Baker at [benjie@cbbsb.org](mailto:benjie@cbbsb.org) or 964-7869 x 21**

## Sukkot

**Wednesday, October 12** . . . . . 7:00 pm  
*stories, lessons and a family worship service*

### Thursday, October 13

Young Family Program . . . . . 9:00 am  
1st Day Sukkot Service . . . . . 10:30 am

## Simchat Torah

**Wednesday, October 19** . . . . . 7:00 pm

### Thursday, October 20

Young Family Program . . . . . 9:00 am  
Morning Service . . . . . 10:30 am  
*with Yizkor*

**Voices is published quarterly by Congregation B'nai B'rith. Subscription is free to members. 1000 San Antonia Creek Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93111**



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### VOICES DEADLINES

Winter 2011 deadline November 1  
 Submissions to Benjie Baker at [benjie@cbbsb.org](mailto:benjie@cbbsb.org)





Why do we kiss the Torah, point at the Torah, dress it in fancy garments and treat it so special?

Simply: we kiss, point, dress, parade and dance with the Torah because we love Her. Yes, Torah in Hebrew is a feminine noun.

We also kiss mezuzot, sacred books when we close them, and our tzitzit during prayer. As we can each enthusiastically attest, kissing is a joyous outward expression of our love.

Here's how I relate to Torah and why I kiss Her. The word Torah is derived from the Hebrew word "to shoot" or "to reach the mark." Torah is a pointer, an arrow, a way of moving towards Gd.

She is our most sacred word, except for the name of Gd and there are teachings that the Torah itself, from beginning to end, is one of Gd's names. When Torah is lifted high on Shabbat, She is celebrated as a visual record of an ancient conversation with the Divine. A love letter between us and Gd.

Torah is a source for fascination, study, and joy; often called the "play thing of Gd," to be turned and turned because everything is in Her. We point our pinky finger at Her when She rises as if we are greeting a royal person in ancient times.

Any time Torah travels She must be accompanied by two shomrim, guards, to protect Her. I hold Her tight as an Etz Hayyim, A Tree of Life, when I pray for healing or during the Torah reading because she is a lifeline to the Divine, the Mystery.

As we begin our "Year of Living Torah" I look forward to talking with you about your relationship with Torah. If you designed a T-shirt I \_\_\_\_\_ Torah what would it say?  
Mine: I ❤️ Torah!

## 2011 CBB Board of Trustees

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**Ideas for a story?  
 Photos to share?**

contact Benjie Baker at  
[benjie@cbbsb.org](mailto:benjie@cbbsb.org)

**For a complete list of CBB events go to [www.cbbsb.org](http://www.cbbsb.org)**

# CBB Mission Statement

*CBB is a diverse, inclusive community of individuals and families building together a warm and vibrant house of living Judaism.*

# CBB Resource Guide

## 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](http://www.cbbsb.org).

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Timna Some	Rabbi Ira Youdovin
Leonard Wallock	

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### For Advertising Opportunities

and rates, please contact Benjie Baker at [benjie@cbbsb.org](mailto:benjie@cbbsb.org)

[www.cbbsb.org](http://www.cbbsb.org) for all upcoming events and schedule of worship services

### Interested in MEMBERSHIP?

Contact Benjie Baker at [Benjie@cbbsb.org](mailto:Benjie@cbbsb.org) or 964-7869 x 21.

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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.**

## A Monthly Blessing for the Homeless

*by* Audrie Krause,  
Volunteer Project Coordinator  
CBB Pershing Park Homeless Project

### Seeing the Grand Canyon For the First Time

*by* Ashley Monser

"Awesome" -- that's how Margaret Singer described the Grand Canyon. To be honest I have been to the Grand Canyon before, but it was never as GRAND as when Margaret was standing before it. I went to college at Northern Arizona University and when Margaret mentioned her desire to see the Grand Canyon I volunteered to take her there.

The friends we were staying with fell instantly in love with Margaret. We searched the whole park for the perfect place for her to sketch. It felt like Margaret put the same love and devotion into sketching the canyon as G-d did creating it. It was inspiring.

This trip also took us to the red rocks of Sedona and the sparkling waters of Lake Mary. On our 10 hour drive each way we listened and sang along to music from the 1930s to the current and shared stories about our lives. As I sat on the edge of the Grand Canyon overlooking a landscape that goes on an eternity, I was filled with awe and gratitude for the moment and the company I shared it with.



*Margaret Singer & Ashley Monser*



The first time Congregation B'nai B'rith members provided dinner in Pershing Park for the homeless was Christmas Eve of 2008. The church members who served dinner every Wednesday asked if our congregation could help so they could observe the holiday. By all accounts, it was a positive experience. Soon our congregation was asked to provide the dinner monthly; we have been doing so since June of 2009.

Our dinners are a truly collaborative effort involving anywhere from 15 to 25 families. In addition to a wonderful array of food – much of it lovingly home-cooked – our volunteers distribute socks, toiletries, and occasionally even treats for the dogs, while other volunteers from Doctors Without Walls offer medical care.

We serve more meals in summer and fewer in winter when Casa Esperanza is open, but even in bad weather there are 15-20 people in need of a meal. Offering food to the homeless and hungry is simple; a mitzvah for us as Jews. But this simple act is part of a much more complicated whole. Deep divisions exist over services for the homeless. Some would do away not only with voluntary programs like our Pershing Park dinners, but with homeless shelters, drug and alcohol programs, mental health counseling. As our community has become increasingly polarized around homelessness, our simple monthly mitzvah seems more important than ever.



## Rwanda Preschool Update

by Ellen Hunter

For the past 6 months I have received almost daily e-mails from a man in Rwanda whom I have never met. This man, Zachary Dusingizimana, is the Director of the future Ubumwe-Beit HaYeladim Preschool and someone whom I can comfortably call my friend. His e-mails have been updates on the construction of the Ubumwe Preschool in Rwanda and have included inspiring pictures, words of love, hope and encouragement. Check the CBB website for photos of children sitting right next to the construction site, men moving huge lava rocks by hand wearing only sandals on their feet, and tools we wouldn't dream of using to build a school!

There were times I would send an e-mail to Zachary apologetic because I wasn't sure when we were going to wire more funds to finish the foundation.

Zachary would say, "We have to be patient... Don't worry Ellen". Another email would say, "Everything will be alright. We are a great team."



Who is on the "team" that Zachary is referring to? Is it Pam Gunther, Rabbi Cohen, Deborah Naish, Frederic Ndabaramiye and myself? That is a pretty small team of people to try to build a school in Rwanda. The team Zachary is referring to is you, the members of CBB. Many of you have already become team members through your volunteer efforts, donations and words of encouragement. Even our CBB youth have become part of Zachary and Frederic's team

through their Bar and Bat Mitzvah projects and other gifts of support.

But the good news is that our "team" is also reaching out to the greater Santa Barbara community. In June, we received a very generous donation of \$5,000 from the San Marcos High School non-profit group of students called Kids Helping Kids. They met Frederic last October, were moved by his story of hope and perseverance and felt compelled to donate and make a difference. As you are reading this, we are just weeks away from another visit to Santa Barbara from our Rwandan friends, Frederic and Zachary. We hope to be finished with the foundation by then and on to Phase III of the project- the walls of the preschool building. We will need to raise \$25,000 to give the children of Gisenyi walls to their classrooms.

I can hardly wait to finally meet Zachary and once again visit with Frederic and there will be many opportunities at CBB to do so. I hope you will become part of Zachary and Frederic's team and help us complete the Ubumwe Preschool in Rwanda. Together, as a team, we will do great things and leave our mark in the world. For more information: [www.cbbsb.org](http://www.cbbsb.org).



# Heart and Home



by Timna Some (religious school student)

*English is not Timna's first language. She is an Israeli who came to the US in first grade and is now in the 8th grade. She loves reading, fencing, and playing her saxophone among other activities.*

## Hello?

Look.  
Look this way  
No, at me!  
Do you see me?  
Ah, you do  
Now you are judging me  
  
As I do you  
As you see,  
My jeans are a comfy fit.  
Not too loose, too tight.  
My shirt a birthday present  
Of a distant cousin  
My shoes, \$5 at the Shoe Source  
Plain brown hair, parted down the middle  
No little clip, no little feather  
A do that came to be in two minutes, with a comb  
  
You instead, you took an hour on your look  
All carefully matched, color coordinated.  
You picked out your jeans, your shirt, your shoes  
Your hair alone,  
Took 30 minutes and much more than a comb  
Your hair has artificial life, beauty in the unreal.  
  
We pass each other without a hello.  
Just a stare.

Never a Hey, how are you?  
Not even a nod of acceptance.  
Why is it,  
That no one ever says greeting  
To commemorate an, albeit brief, meeting?  
Just because your clothes cost more than mine?  
Or your friends are nearby?  
We've known each other  
For a year, perhaps longer.  
But acknowledge the other's presence?  
How could we, it is forbidden!  
Is it though, is it really?  
Just 'cause  
'Cause you shop here and I there?  
'Cause you try to be in the crowd? Buy this, laugh at that.  
And I, I my own person. A conscience thinker, so unlike  
you in your colony.  
Or at least I try.

Is it written, that one cannot greet the other?  
If it bothers me so, then why don't I break it?  
Break the silence  
'Cause  
'Cause I'm afraid  
Of what will happen  
Two worlds colliding.  
It's terrible,  
But no one does a thing about it.  
I can ramble on  
But in reality  
We are waiting  
Waiting for someone else  
To break the silence.

# NEW

## Shira Min Halev: Songs from the Heart

**A book of original Jewish themed poems  
by community members ages 19 - 90+**

*Special Feature:  
Honoring our beloved Margaret Singer*

Proceeds benefit Beit Ha Yeladim

Available early December \$15.00  
Pre-order by November 1<sup>st</sup> at [www.cbbsb.org](http://www.cbbsb.org)  
at the discounted price of \$13.00

Today Rabah to **Linda Schwartz** and  
**Sheila Golburgh Johnson** for initiating  
and creating this book



*Apples and honey are the most traditional foods for Rosh Hashanah. They are easy to make and enjoyed by everyone. This is a great recipe to make with your children or grandchildren. It can be made ahead and served at room temperature.*



## Baked Apples

*lovingly contributed by Jere Lifshitz*

**Preheat oven to 350 degrees.**

**6 large round firm apples (such as Rome, Courtland, Pink Lady, Fuji, Ida Red, Granny Smith, etc.)**

**1 - 1 ½ cups of water, sweet white wine, or apple juice/cider**

**Juice and zest of one large lemon**

**2 T raisins or candied ginger or diced dried apricots or other fruit**

**2 T chopped walnuts or pecans or almonds optional**

**1 T cinnamon mixed with 1 T brown sugar, to taste**

**2 T honey, to taste**

**Core the apples, leaving about ½ inch of the base intact and not cored.**

**Peel off the top third of each apple skin. Brush the peeled and cored part of the apple with lemon juice.**

**Arrange apples so they fit upright and close together in a baking pan.**

**Add ½ to 1 inch of liquid on the bottom of the pan. Mix zest, fruit, nuts, cinnamon and sugar together. Add mixture to inside of each cored apple. Bake open end up uncovered until the apples are tender, about 45 minutes to 1 hour. Cool and serve warm or at room temperature with some honey dribbled on top.**

## Personal Reflections



### Let's Hear It For Religion!

*by* Barbara Greenleaf

Over the years a lot of people have had a lot of negative things to say about religion, among them the communist philosopher Karl

Marx, who famously declared, "Religion is the opiate of the masses." More recently in Santa Barbara, I've heard Jews explain their lack of affiliation by such phrases as, "I don't need to go to temple to talk to God" and "Look at all the terrible things that have been done in the name of religion." Since everyone's entitled to his or her opinion, I never ventured a rejoinder. But after giving it a lot of thought, I am now ready to speak up for the opposite point of view.

Religion has stood the test of time. Over the millennia it has brought out the best in people, creating the great moral framework for human interaction. It has also inspired gorgeous works of art and architecture; soaring musical scores; profound literature; and innumerable institutions of charity. Long before the dawn of history, tribes were already engaged in communal rites dedicated to powerful, otherworldly forces. Indeed, group worship goes back so far it seems to be stamped into our human DNA. For all those reasons, if religion didn't exist, we'd have to invent it.

Yes, people do commit despicable acts in the name of religion, but they are perverting the spirit of religion, not fulfilling it. Moreover, every day all over the world people also act inhumanely in the name of tribal loyalty, family honor, and national interest. One need look no further than the Nazi regime—a Godless movement if there ever was one—to rest one's case.

I may not be sure about the nature of Gd, but I am sure about the efficacy of faith-based communities. So the next time someone makes a disparaging remark about religion, I plan to respond enthusiastically, "Organized religion? Count me in!"

## Personal Reflections

### A Special Ritual

by Lynne Glasman



In February, 2001 I was diagnosed with breast cancer. A routine mammogram found a slow-growing lump of about 6 millimeters (or 1/4 inch) in diameter. The following month I underwent a lumpectomy followed by radiation treatments.

Throughout the whole process I felt no pain. In fact, I was numb—How could this be? No one in my family had had breast cancer. As it turns out, about 85% of women diagnosed with breast cancer have no family history of the disease.

Fast forward 10 years. I have had annual mammograms and they have all been normal. But this year, I wanted to do something to commemorate that life-changing event. So I created a small ritual and invited four women who supported me throughout the process, and my husband, to participate with me. We lit candles, drank from the waters of healing and shared blessings for themselves and me. It was a short, but very powerful experience.

It is my belief that rituals are an important part of our lives. They remind us of our personal and collective history. And they act as markers along the way of our lives' journey. I also view the ritual I created as an important aspect of my on-going healing, especially my spiritual healing.

So in closing, I encourage each of you to consider creating a ritual when you experience an important event in your life. Just a bit of thought, a bit of creativity—you can make it as short and as simple as you wish. But I do think it will reward you with blessing, as it did for me.

And ladies—get those annual mammograms! It just might save your life!

They just took my daughter away. She was squeezing my hand, trying not to cry. She was so brave. The words I imagined saying would not escape my lips. The neurons in my brain refused to fire. Besides, what could I possibly say to her that I hadn't said before? How could I find those unattainable words that could take away her fear while I was worried out of my mind? My throat was dry and I knew my voice would crack if I spoke. My fear of screaming or crying and causing a scene overpowered my instinct to tell her I loved her, assuring her that everything would be okay.

She would surely see it in my eyes.



There she was lying on the gurney covered in blankets I carefully tucked in so well, like a

straight jacket trying to keep the pain away or protect her from anything that could further harm her. After all, I was her mother. That became my responsibility the instant she was born.

Standing there feeling helpless, my legs felt weighted down by some intangible force. The double doors began to sway shut. I tried to hold onto that vision of her staring at me with love and hope. Or perhaps it was really pity. I am certain she knew how terrified I was for her. She never wanted me to feel sad or bad, apologetic as she often was. As if this happened because of her doing.

The double doors failed to close symmetrically and I was allowed to catch glimpses of her being rolled down the white foreboding corridor. At the end, I imagine, were another set of double doors leading to a cold and sterile overly disinfected operating room. Suddenly a short, rotund woman tugged gently on my arm and tried to lead me away, but I wouldn't move until the doors shut evenly. She was wearing street clothes, not scrubs or a lab coat. She looked like someone's grandmother wanting to welcome me into her cozy kitchen filled with the

## A Mermaid Out of Water

by  
Randy  
Gross

*continued on page 33*

# OPENING CELEBRATION

Sunday Morning,  
October 30<sup>th</sup>  
10:30 on 10/30

Meet our Sofer  
Sign-up for a Letter Writing Session  
Learn about Our Year of Living Torah  
and Torah Restoration Project  
See our Holocaust Torah  
Stay for Brunch

5772:  
our year of  
LIVING  
TORAH



## Czech Holocaust Torah Restoration Project and Our Year of Learning

by Elizabeth Gaynes, Project Chair

We are embarking on an exciting new project at CBB. Our Year of Living Torah begins on Simchat Torah, when we re-roll the Book of the Jewish people and start all over again. We are given this wonderful opportunity to look at Torah through fresh eyes, while also honoring and learning about our past.

Our Year of Living Torah is inspired by the restoration of our beloved, aging Holocaust Torah. In 1980, on behalf of CBB, the Abrahams Family sponsored the acquisition of a Torah from Pribram, Czechoslovakia. This Torah is one of over 1500 scrolls gathered in Prague during the Nazi occupation, and later rescued by The Westminster Trust in London. Much of the Jewish community in Czechoslovakia perished in the Holocaust, and so, post-war, The Westminster Trust took on the task of finding homes for these orphaned Torah scrolls. Our Torah is housed in the main ark at CBB, and for the past several years, it has been brought out and read from on Yom Kippur afternoon.

Our Torah is over 200 years old and contains a unique combination of Ashkenazi and Sephardi characters as well as some Kabbalistic symbols. Many of the letters are crumbling and some of the bindings and parchment need to be repaired. With the help of a generous gift from the Stein family and donations in memory of Alex Stein, we have engaged Sofer Neil Yerman to restore this sacred scroll. Over the next several months, Sofer Yerman will be visiting CBB and bringing the Torah back so that we can witness and take part in the restoration.

Please participate in the mitzvah of inscribing a Hebrew letter in the Torah with our Sofer. See page 14 or visit our website at [www.cbbsb.org](http://www.cbbsb.org) to learn more and sign up.

There will also be many Living Torah programs and opportunities for expression through study, art, music and conversation in an evolving curriculum throughout the year. We hope that you find your own personal connection to Torah, whether it is the first time or reconnecting over a lifetime.

### LEARN MORE:

**About The Czech Memorial Scrolls Trust**  
[www.czechmemorialscrollstrust.org](http://www.czechmemorialscrollstrust.org)



# The Fire

## of Torah

by Rabbi Steve Cohen

Since I was a boy, I have been fascinated by fire. I don't think I am alone. From the earliest beginnings of our species, we human beings have gathered around the fire, for warmth and protection, to cook, to sing songs, tell stories, and to gaze into the flames. Even now, in my middle age, it does not take long for fire to work its magic on me, and to send me into a trance.



My fascination with fire is related to my deepest emotions about the Torah. The Hebrew letters resemble flames dancing, shifting, reaching toward the sky. And the experience of reading Torah is like building a fire, an art I learned from my father.

Start small, with the tiniest pieces of bark and twigs. Carefully set up a little teepee structure. Insert the match without knocking down the teepee. Wait. Let the fire catch. Gently add a few slightly larger twigs. Be patient. Allow the fire to grow. At the right moment (you just have to know), you can gently blow on the new coals that have formed at the base and this will breathe life into the fire. Too much breath, or too much wood all at once, and the whole thing will

collapse, and you'll need to start over. But once it's going, the fire has a life of its own. Throw on a log from time to time and let it warm and enchant you.

The most important thing in studying Torah, similarly, is to start small. Just a few sentences. Maybe even just a few words. God said to Abraham "Go forth from your land, from the place of your birth, from your father's house and go to the land which I will show you." This single sentence, which marks the beginning of our people's story, provides plenty of fuel for discussion, for

reflection, for heat and illumination. And the match we bring to light the fire is a question. An honest, penetrating question. Some questions about Abraham's journey might be: "How did Abraham hear God's voice?" "Why does God not tell Abraham where he is headed?" "How could Abraham leave his home without any idea where he was going?" Any of these might serve as the match that sets this text ablaze.

We are beginning a Year of Living Torah here at CBB, in which we will each have the opportunity to take a quill in hand and to inscribe a letter in our Holocaust Torah. Additionally, each of us will have the opportunity to select a single sentence of the Torah (with advice and guidance) and to "make it our own," to bring to it our most personal, "igniting" questions.

I believe that this one verse can be for each one of us a delicate and awesome beginning, a tiny fire which can grow and grow into a roaring blaze, giving enlightenment, warmth, mystery and meaning for the rest of our life.



**If you are interested in learning more about Torah and Judasim, join Rabbi Cohen**

**Saturdays at 9:00 am or attend his new Fundamentals of Judaism class.**

**See page 16 for details.**

# A Torah's Legacy: From Past to Present

by Ann Pieramici



More than 90 years ago in the vibrant Czech town of Brno, just 16 miles from Pribram, home of our Temple's rescued Holocaust Torah, a young Lisa Rozsa (nee Liebschütz) could be found playing with her younger sister, Gerda, outside the house that

her family shared with their grandmother. Gerda was athletic and enjoyed tennis and swimming, while Lisa loved playing the violin, performing regularly with a Chamber music group. Both girls adored Anna, their non-Jewish live-in nanny, who kept rabbits in the attic of Lisa's spacious childhood home.

The ground floor of the apartment building housed the family's shipping and storage business, with workhorses stabled behind the property. Lisa's family occupied the second floor, sandwiched between her grandmother and one uncle on the first floor and another aunt and uncle on the third level. Lisa's grandmother, her mentor and a "super cook" would often prepare Shabbat dinners, aided by a cook and a staff of servants. While her grandmother belonged to an Orthodox synagogue, Lisa and her family joined a more modern temple not far away. After graduating from high school, Lisa moved to France for six months to study French and work as a tutor. She returned to Brno in March 1939, just eight days before Hitler marched into Prague. Fleeing to Iraq, Lisa quickly wed her boyfriend, Imre Rozsa, who was working as an architect in Baghdad. She was forced to leave behind her 19-year-old sister, Gerda, who died in Auschwitz and her father who perished in Terezienstadt. Her mother miraculously survived both those camps and the two were ecstatically reunited after the war in Nairobi, Kenya.

Not far away, in the same town of Brno lived fellow Temple member, Doris Stein (nee Eisler) who was just 10 years old when Hitler's army invaded

Czechoslovakia. Doris recalls, "My parents, younger brother and I fled on the day that Hitler marched into our city, and though we escaped, it was very sad because my parents didn't tell anyone we were leaving. I never got to say goodbye to my grandparents who died in the camps."

Unbeknownst to Doris, her future husband, Alexander Stein, would also flee Brno at the age of 16, saved by an aunt in Vienna. But he would be forever haunted by the fact that he couldn't save his parents or his grandmother, all of whom were killed in the concentration camps. According to Doris: "Alex never forgot his parents and carried guilt with him until his own death, just one year ago." Which is why, for her

*continued on page 22*



*from left: Granddaughter Rachel, Doris Stein and son Mike*



*from left: Lisa Rozsa and daughters Eve and Julia*





*Sofer Neil H. Yerman*

**“I believe that Torah is a gift to the world; to the Jewish people, and to people of all religious backgrounds who find meaning and value in Living Torah.”** –*Sofer Neil H. Yerman*

Sofer and artist Neil H. Yerman started a career in art and calligraphy in 1984. In 1987, he was asked to restore ten Sifrei Torah by Temple Sinai of Roslyn, which led him on a career as a sofer (scribe) and teacher of Torah.

Sofer Yerman strives to foster a love for both the physical Torah and for the letters of wisdom which it contains.

It is Yerman’s conviction that all people should have access to the Torah in a way that honors the traditions the community holds most dear. Sofer Yerman is skilled in the art of Gematria (Jewish numerology) and uses this technique and its Kabbalistic underpinnings to open up new worlds of meaning and understanding of the Torah, Jewish life, Jewish living, and the universal

concepts of peace, justice, and tikkun olam – the healing of the world.

Sofer Neil Yerman will be at CBB at least 3 times during this next year. We encourage everyone to help restore our sacred Holocaust Torah by writing a letter with the Sofer. Sign up online at [www.cbbsb.org](http://www.cbbsb.org) or call the office at 964-7869. See below for more information and the dates scheduled for letter writing.

*Sofer Yerman is in residence at Sinai Free Synagogue in Mount Vernon, New York. Find out more about him from his website – <http://neilyerman.com>.*

**Reserve your letter writing time-slot now!**

[www.cbbsb.org](http://www.cbbsb.org)

Opening Celebration of  **10/30 at 10:30 am**

## You Can Help Us Restore a Very Special Torah

One of the ways to get up close and personal with our Torah is to write one Hebrew letter in the Torah. In small groups, you have the opportunity to rewrite a letter - it is the 613<sup>th</sup> mitzvah, and by joining your hand with our Sofer’s, you will be performing this mitzvah. It is a very rare opportunity to write a letter in a Torah scroll, particularly this one because of its unique history and artistic importance.

Letter writing sessions with Sofer Yerman:

- *Sunday afternoon/evening, October 30*
- *Monday daytime/evening, October 31*
- *February 8 - 12*
- *April 17 - 19*

*Groups of approximately 25  
\$30 Suggested donation per writer  
Form a group or join another group*





When I reach into our Holy Ark and gather the Sefer Torah into my arms there's always an ineffable sense of awe that attends the slightest fear of something unexpected. We are, after all, embracing a living being. The thought of the scroll escaping my grasp keeps me vigilant. Thoughts of fasting, extra study and tzedakah as consequences for dropping a scroll (as appealing as they might be) make me slow and deliberate in my movement. When we approach the ark, we do not ascend alone, but in a formal procession that honors and guards the scroll. We do not leave the Torah scroll unattended on the reader's podium. When it is lifted for all to see we make sure that we are standing close by, in case the Magbi'ah (lifter) is overwhelmed by the gravity of our teachings. And we do not let our scrolls fall into disrepair.

Made of thin parchment from a kosher animal (cow or deer), wood for the poles (atzei chayim), sinew or special thread to tie all the pieces together, and ink prepared from an ancient recipe, the Written Torah is greater than its parts. Lettered with art and exactitude that can come only from the quill of a trained scribe (sofer), the hand-calligraphed parchment is imbued with a "mystery without end" that we call Teaching. It is given life, however, only if the following conditions are fulfilled:

- a sofer whose hand and quill do not waiver from the tradition of the generations of scribes who came before;
- a Jew who will study and teach its words;
- and a community who will unlock the mysteries of the Torah by gaining the attainable skills to read it aloud and bring it directly to those who cling to it.

## HOLDING THE SCROLL

by Cantor Mark Childs

My heart fills when I think of the care that is now being given to our eldest scroll as our sofer lovingly restores this centuries old beloved friend. Barney and Valerie Abrahams adopted this Czech scroll on our behalf from the Westminster Synagogue in London over thirty years ago. We have given it, and the murdered Jewish community in Pribram from whence it originated, renewed life in memory of those who perished.

When I train our 13 year olds to carry the Torah in Hakafah (procession), the first question they always ask is "Has anyone ever dropped the Torah?" The answer I usually give to their very immediate and practical question is "Not yet, and you will not be the first." But in my mind I'm thinking metaphorically; "All too often have Jews dropped the Torah. But you, my dear student, are raising it up now."

*Cantor Mark Childs has served CBB since 1991.*

*In addition to his well-known clergy responsibilities he manages the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program, nurtures the voices and spirits of our youth, teen and adult choir members, directs the Temple Band, and shares his spectacular voice and sense of humor with the community-at-large.*





## Fundamentals of Judaism Class

with Rabbi Steve Cohen

*This class is structured in seven mini-modules. Participants can choose to take one or two modules, or the entire sequence or just try a class*

10:30 am -12:00 noon

### First Module:

**September 18, 25, October 2, 9**

*The Holy Season:  
Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot*

### Second Module:

**October 23, November 6**

*The Jewish Sabbath*

## Jewish Journeys: A Guided Discussion Group

*led by Allan Morton and  
Sheila Golburgh Johnson*



**Sundays, October 23,  
November 20  
December 11**

**11:00 am – 12:30 pm**



One member wrote:  
"Jewish Journeys provides a respectful and stimulating space for discussion of family traditions, identity, shared experiences of being a minority group member,

and general questions about faith and practice. Participants are thoughtful and keen listeners, who really enjoy this opportunity for reflection and new learning." – G.E.

# Jewish Book Club

Sunday, October 2  
*(Sunday Morning Live - next page)*

**Panther in the Basement**  
*by Amos Oz*

Sunday, January 22, 2012

**The World to Come**  
*by Dara Horn*

Sunday, March 18, 2012

**A Woman In Jerusalem**  
*by A.B. Yehoshua*

Sunday, May 20, 2012

**The History Of Love**  
*by Nicole Krause*



UCLA Professor Charles Lynn Batten is a master teacher, immensely popular and thought-provoking.

### NOTE:

**January, March and May  
Jewish Book Club**

*9:30 am - Bagels & Coffee*

*10:00 to 11:45 am - Discussion*

# GO TRIBAL!

JOIN OUR  
**20s AND 30s CBB TRIBE**  
*all the cool Jews are doing it.*

**FEEL like hiking?**  
SB Mountains are a callin'.

**Enjoy yoga?**  
Try it Shabbat style.

**WANT TO HAVE A DRINK & TALK TALMUD?**  
come to Text in the City.

**INTERESTED? HAVE ANOTHER idea?**  
Email [Benjie@cbsb.org](mailto:Benjie@cbsb.org)

3RD FRIDAY RUACH!

Welcome Shabbat with SoulAviv joining The Temple Band. Put on your best, white Shabbat clothes and let's make some magic together.



and THE TEMPLE BAND

November 18

October 21 and monthly thereafter

THE TEMPLE BAND



# SUNDAY MORNING LIVE

and the Jewish Book Club

Sunday, October 2

8:45 am **Best Darn Breakfast, PERIOD!**

9:30 am Program  
**UCLA Prof. Charles Lynn Batten:**  
a master teacher, immensely popular and thought-provoking

## PANTHER IN THE BASEMENT

by Amos Oz

This is the story of Proffy, a twelve-year-old boy living in Jerusalem in 1947 who organizes an Underground cell to take down the British. Proffy later befriends a British soldier and is accused of treason by his Underground friends, and learns the true nature of loyalty and betrayal. The film *The Little Traitor* (2007) is based on this young adult/adult book.

# 2011 Progressive Dinner

Saturday, October 22

**Hors D'oeuvres:** at the home of Marina Stephens and Len Homeniuk

**Dinner:** numerous members in Hope Ranch and on the Mesa are opening their homes and sharing their culinary specialties. Your dinner venue will be revealed to you during the hors d'oeuvres hour.

**Dessert:** at the home of Belinda and Steve Zola

Our Annual Fun, Social Gathering and Major Temple Fundraiser

**\$150 per person**

**or just dessert for \$36**

Event Chairs: Marcy Wimbish at [marcywim@gmail.com](mailto:marcywim@gmail.com)  
and Lisa Raphael at [landddin@cox.net](mailto:landddin@cox.net)  
RSVP at [www.cbbsb.org](http://www.cbbsb.org) or 964-7869



# Mazel Tov!

## In Our Lives

**Nathaniel Block** who has been elected president of the Resident Hall Student Association at the University of Washington in Seattle.



*Do you have a simcha you would like to share with your CBB Family? Email Benjie Baker at [benjie@cbbbsb.org](mailto:benjie@cbbbsb.org)*

**Suzy Kaufer** on being acknowledged by the Alpha Resource Center of Santa Barbara for her class "Cardio Dance for All".



**Melinda and Justin Greene** on the birth of their son, Noah Kai Keith Greene.

**Hezi and Corin Koren** on the birth of their son, Eitan Omri Koren.



**Natalie and Kenny Gaynes** on receiving the Viola S. Girsh Award

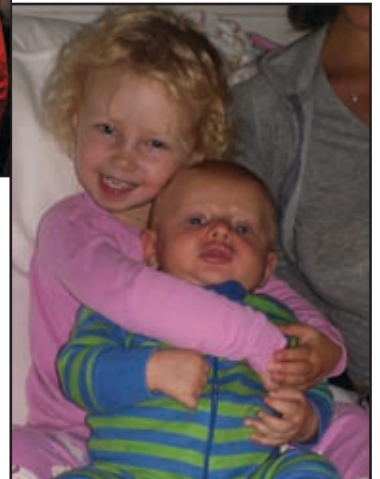


**Peter Glynn**, who was named Crane School's Teacher of the Year.



**Marilyn and Joel Weixel** on the birth of their granddaughter, Elizabeth Frances and to Alyssa Weixel on the birth of her daughter.

**Katherine and Brian Emery** on the birth of their new baby, Cormick Scott Emery.



The newly installed **2011/12 Board of Trustees.**

We welcome to the Board: Sydney Book, Mimi Dent, Beth Katz, Jody Kaufman, Josh Rabinowitz, and Susan Rakov.

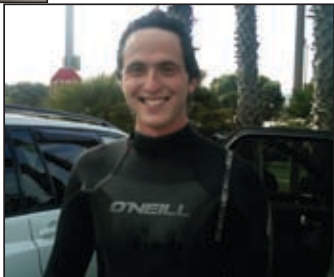
From right: **Amy Wendel** (co-writer and Director) and her husband **Dan Meisel** (co-writer and Producer) on the release of their feature drama [All She Can](#), which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival.

Risa Head, daughter of **Karen and Randy Pelletier**, who is in Vietnam doing volunteer work in an orphanage.



**Jeff and Nancy Kupperman** on the birth of their grandchildren, Abraham Gideon and Ruth Schoen, and to Shira and Adam Boehler on the birth of their children.

**Noah Smith**, former Voices Copy Editor at CBB for being accepted to NYU



**Rose Cohen**, former CBB staff member, for being accepted into the Peace Corps. Rose is serving as a volunteer in Botswana, working on HIV/AIDS education and prevention.



Amy Goldman, daughter of **Ellen Goldman** and Richard Goldman z'l, on her engagement to Sean Chandra.

To all the CBB children who were in musical productions this summer. David Childs as Tevya in Fiddler on the Roof. Allison Lewis Towbes, Adam Childs, Eric Capelle, Macy Broesamle, Talia Cohen, Emma Semonson, Hadley Polinsky, Sophia Winnikoff, Sarina Wasserman, Tema Holzman, Daniela Gottesman, Riva Brody, Keri Parsons, Gabriella Goldberg and Molly Jacobs who all performed in Grease.

**Bev and Richard Mayer** on the birth of their grandchildren



*Emma*



*James*

## What Will They Say After You Are Gone?

by Steven A. Amerikaner, Chair  
Children of the Covenant Committee



You are living a good life – you do work that you enjoy, you are part of a family that provides sustenance, you have friends who are with you in good times and bad, you participate in Santa Barbara civic life, and you are part of a Temple family that seeks to make the world

better and provides essential “glue” for the Jewish community.

For many, Congregation B’nai B’rith has been an important part of our life in Santa Barbara. Many of us have had a child educated at the Temple; others have been part of a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, or a wedding, or a memorial service.

## As my father planted for me, so I will plant for my children

*Talmud Bavli, Ta’anit 23a*

There is much here to find satisfying.

Yet, ask yourself: Is that enough of a legacy? Are you satisfied with the impact you’re having on your community, Temple and world? Do you want to link yourself to a long-lasting effort to make things better?

If the answer is Yes, we have good news for you.

This fall, Congregation B’nai B’rith is launching its “Children of the Covenant” Program to establish a \$20 million endowment. The purpose of the endowment is to create a rock-solid financial base for our congregation as protection against the financial uncertainties of the future. The endowment principal will remain untouched – only the interest earned will be used to support the Temple’s various programs.

*continued on page 24*

## In Our Lives



### Shiva Minyan Moments

by Deborah Naish  
CBB Executive Director

She made me laugh. He made such a difference in a short amount of time. She was kind to everyone she came in contact with. He loved our family so much.

Sometimes I have known the person. Sometimes I am close with a family member who lost a loved one. Other times, I only know the family enough to say hello. I always feel a profound sense of awe and appreciate the moments that are shared about the life of their loved one. No matter whether I knew their loved one, or not, I feel a sense of connection, to everyone in the room and to the departed.

I have been to a lot of memorial services and shiva minyans in the past few years. In every one, I have felt privileged to be a part of this life cycle ritual, the gathering of friends and family to celebrate the life and mourn the passing of a loved one.

Sometimes when death arrives it is a shock, perhaps a tragedy. The loss of life at a young age feels so wrong and hard to accept. Other times one's passing has been a kind of blessing, the release of suffering, the letting go and moving on.

No matter the cause and circumstances, the intensity we all feel- family members, friends, and those who are there to support and love the living- is present in the room. We can feel the energy, the spirit of the living, the sadness of the loss and the abundance of love. This coming together is one of the many ways that reinforce how blessed I feel to be a part of our community.



MAY THEIR  
LIVES BE  
FOR A BLESSING

### We Mourn

#### June

**Toby Parisse**, beloved wife of Dick, loving mother of Robin, David and Michael, and long-time temple member.

**Ronnie Lewis**, father of Michal Lynch and grandfather of Charlie, Becca and Sean.

**Esther Kronich**, long-time CBB member.

**Marsha Jacobs**, mother of Jason Jacobs, mother-in-law of Marcy, grandmother of Charlie and Ally.

**Shoshana Lowenschuss**, wife of Oscar Lowenschuss, mother of Maia and Leonard, mother-in-law of Robert Palmer and grandmother of Felicia and Justin Palmer.

**Albert Wells**, father of Lucy Wells Kohansamad, father-in-law of Albert, grandfather of Rachel, Joshua, Nicole and Andre.

**William Treiber**, father of Rabbi Malka Drucker, grandfather of Max Drucker and Betsy Heafitz and great-grandfather of Sasha, Lesley, and Solomon.

#### July

**Seymour Blutstein**, husband of Hermine, father of Maeda Palius, father-in-law of Michael O'Kelley and grandfather of Alexis Palius.

**Joseph Kharrazi**, brother of Mary Brennan and Mike Kharrazi, brother-in-law of Rachel Kharrazi, uncle of Daniel Brennan and wife Yael Brennan and great-uncle of Josh, Andrew and Matthew.

#### August

**Dina Hak**, aunt of Devora Sprecher.

**Liliane Schiff**, longtime CBB member.

*Ha'makom yenaheh etkhem betokh s  
he'ar avelei Tziyon v'Yerushalayim.  
May God console you among the  
other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.*





*Erika Eskenazi*

# Birthright Israel: Reflections

*Erika and Samara are two of our young adults who participated in "Birthright Israel" this year. This is an exceptional program and we hope you will consider this program for your children.*

I had a strong sense of Judaism growing up in Santa Barbara at Congregation B'nai B'rith—I went through the entire religious school program as a student then, as a madricha, sang in choir, became a Bat Mitzvah, was confirmed, and was an enthused leader in SBORTY for three years. At the beginning of this summer, after three years at UCSB, my connection

with Judaism had faded significantly. Taglit-Birthright re-invigorated my Jewish identity tenfold. Though I do not connect with the religious aspects of Judaism like I used to, Taglit showed me that the Jewish People are truly a nation not just religion—just like the French are French—and that though we have been dispersed all over the world, we are still a unified people with a common history and homeland. Being Jewish means different things to different people, and I thank Taglit for helping me solidify my personal Jewish identity -

**Erika Eskenazi**

**Taglit-Birthright Israel is a free 10-day trip to Israel for Jewish young adults ages 18-26. This program was created in order to send thousands of young Jews from all over the world to Israel for the first time. This gift serves to strengthen the ties between world Jewry and Israel and to increase solidarity among Jewish people. For more information about the program and how you can go on a trip visit [www.birthrightisrael.com](http://www.birthrightisrael.com).**



*Samara Geiger (middle)*

hands and lips quivered as I kissed the Wailing Wall and held my new found friend's hand as we walked backwards together. Looking at the stars over me I couldn't believe that in a blink of an eye, I had climbed a mountain, seen the full moon shine over

The Birthright trip was beyond words. I felt at home even though I had never been to Israel. My heart sang the finest note as we rode in to Jerusalem, my

the Sea of Galilee, sang "Eli Eli" at Hannah Senesh's resting place, helped make an old building beautiful again, rode an extremely small donkey then a ginormous camel, shook the mayor of Jerusalem's hand, heard the sizzle of the Havdalah candle in the wine while listening to the waves of the Galilee, and floating down the Jordan river. I never in my wildest dreams thought I would go anywhere, I was content with what I knew about the world and how small mine was. It wasn't until this trip that I realized how truly big it is. How one person can make a difference, and how you can love one whole country with all your heart. I have found myself in Israel, which is funny because I thought I knew who I was before. My life since has been a constant thought of Israel and how I need to go back, back to my true home - **Samara Geiger**



The Dent Family

**Tot Shabbat** is our family's favorite Shabbat tradition. In our interfaith family, it started out that Jewish mom would take the eager kids to Tot Shabbat on Friday nights. As the years have passed, dad has joined in our tradition and has come to love celebrating Shabbat at CBB. Our girls enjoy singing and dancing with Rabbi Steve, Cantor Mark, and their friends from Beit HaYeladim. Dad's favorite part is the singing and Mom's favorite part is saying a blessing over our girls. Thank you CBB for introducing us to Shabbat.. Mimi and John Dent



A Torah's Legacy:  
From Past to Present *continued:*

family – as well as for the other former Czech residents who underwent unspeakable horrors - the Temple's Holocaust Torah Restoration Project is so meaningful. "It's amazing how life is; now we can bring a piece of our childhoods to our home in Santa Barbara," says Doris.

It is in Alex's honor that the Stein family has decided to restore the 200-year-old Torah that has resided at Congregation B'nai B'rith for the past 30 years.

"This project would have meant so much to our father," says Mike Stein, recalling one of his dad's favorite adages: *An education is the best thing parents can give their children, since it can never be lost or taken away.* He adds, "To us, the Torah represents all of the Jewish ideals, embodied in a perpetual learning experience."

Sefer Torah Number 35 comes from Pibram, a Jewish community located southwest of Prague and within close proximity to the hometown of Doris, Alexander and Lisa. Pibram was a district town and while the cemetery (from the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century) still exists, the synagogue was demolished in 1969. This Torah is one of 1,564 Czech Memorial Sifre Torah that were saved during the Nazi occupation (1939-1945) from the



**A Private,  
Historical  
and Cultural  
Tour of the Czech  
Republic**

**May 2 - 10, 2012**

*including the home of  
CBB's Holocaust  
Memorial Torah*

Interested?  
Contact Eve Senn  
evesenn@gmail.com

desolated communities of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia. This Torah made its way to CBB in April 1980 at the request of the Abrahams' family and Rabbi Jonathan Kendall. It is read from annually on Yom Kippur afternoon and has been specially requested at the L'Dor Va Dor (from generation to generation) of Doris and Alexander Stein's two granddaughters, when they became B'not Mitvah.

Join us, this year, as we learn about the Czech Jews.



# Reform Judaism: The Big Tent

by Rabbi Ira Youdovin

When asked to define the movement he would soon lead, Rabbi Rick Jacobs, the newly elected president of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), replied: "Reform Judaism is a big tent with its flaps wide open and its Jewish stakes planted deeply in the ground."

Rabbi Jacobs' emphasis on the "big tent" reflects the growing role of diversity in North American Reform Judaism. In the Reform Judaism I encountered as a kid six decades ago, almost every congregation used the Union Prayerbook, a small volume, mostly in English. The UPB broke with tradition by offering five Friday evening services, four more than are found in the traditional siddur (prayer book). But differences were small and most of the music for Friday evening was drawn from the same eastern and central European sources. We had the same service week after week. Those who liked it attended. The others stayed home.

UPB's successor, Gates of Prayer, published in 1975, had a variety of eleven services for Friday evening. The music also became more eclectic, including selections written in a "folksy" idiom and others newly arrived from Israel. We now had a different service week after week; each one designed to satisfy a segment of the congregation.

Mishkan T'filah, which became the movement's official prayer book in 2007, reinstates a one-service format for Friday evening. But the service is written in a way that affords great flexibility in determining its tone and content. It can, and often does, seem different week after week. And a Reform Jew praying in a congregation other than his/her own may find him/herself holding a familiar prayer book while attempting to follow an utterly unfamiliar service.

Moreover, barely half the Reform synagogues in North America use Mishkan T'filah. Some continue to use Gates of Prayer; a handful use the UPB. Others, like our own Congregation B'nai Brith, use their own siddurim.

CBB's siddur is a gem, as are the Rabbis and Cantor who lead us in prayer. I love it! But that's not always the case. In some places I won't mention, I've been tempted to say to the rabbi: "You've got a nice religion here. What do you call it?" On the other hand, it may be precisely what that particular congregation needs.

The variety of its liturgical patterns underscores a profound difference between Reform and other streams in Jewish life. The Orthodox, and to a lesser extent the Conservative movement understand Judaism as a body of law, called halacha, which is equally binding on all Jews everywhere.

Because Reform eschews the "one size fits all" model, it is able to offer a diversity of worship, educational and social experiences to meet the varied needs of contemporary Jews. Here at CBB, we have a variety of weekday minyanim (small worship groups) gathering at different times and in different places. One Friday evening each month is designated as Ruach Shabbat. People sit, pray, sing and dance (!) in ways that are

*continue on page 33*

## Yoga Shabbat and Potluck with Rabbi Alyson Solomon



November 11 | January 20 | March 9  
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

**Shabbat Blessings**  
followed by a Dairy Potluck

Yoga Soup | 28 Parker Way





**Taubman Symposia**  
in Jewish Studies at UCSB

Dr. Leonard Wallock



Photo by Cary Lambert

## CELEBRATES ITS FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

Over the last decade and a half, the Taubman Symposia in Jewish Studies at UCSB has invited more than one hundred internationally renowned writers, artists, theologians, scholars, policymakers, critics, and activists to our community. Their names read like a veritable Who's Who in contemporary Jewish life--from Amos Oz to David Grossman, Leah Rabin to Thomas Friedman, Ruth Gruber to Elie Wiesel, Michael Oren to Bernard-Henri Lévy, and The Jerusalem Trio to Chava Alberstein. The Symposia has also regularly previewed documentaries, such as *The Journalist and the Jihadi: The Murder of Daniel Pearl* or *And*

*Crown Thy Good: Varian Fry in Marseille*, even before they appear on the film festival circuit. The brainchild of Dr. Leonard Wallock, the Symposia has achieved worldwide recognition through webcasting on UCTV ([www.uctv.tv/taubman](http://www.uctv.tv/taubman)), where videos of its free, public events have been downloaded more than half a million times! In celebration of its fifteenth anniversary, the Symposia is launching a Facebook page with descriptions of upcoming events and lively coverage of cultural affairs ([www.facebook.com/TaubmanSymposia](http://www.facebook.com/TaubmanSymposia)). Please join us!

What Will They Say After You Are Gone *continued*:



This type of endowment program has been successfully established at Jewish congregations all over the country. Indeed, it is an increasingly important source of financial stability for non-profits of all types.

There is a critical key to success: the money will come from our Temple members after they have left us. It will come from their wills, trusts, retirement funds and life insurance policies.

This is important for one simple reason: Many people do not have the income or assets to make a substantial gift to the Temple during their lifetimes. At the same time, nearly everyone has substantial assets at their death that they leave to family members, friends, their alma mater, or their favorite local organizations. In Santa Barbara, this substantial asset is often the family home.

We have formed a Children of the Covenant Committee with 25 dedicated Temple members. This fall, they will start calling Temple members to start a conversation about participating in this very important program for the future of our congregation. We plan to recognize the Temple members who join the program with a special Ketuba reflecting their covenant with the congregation.

The calls and conversations will take place over the next two years. If you have already made a legacy gift to the Temple, or would like to talk to someone about the program, please contact Deborah Naish at 964-7869 or [naish@cbbsb.org](mailto:naish@cbbsb.org).

When you get the call, please say Yes. Open your door and your heart to a conversation about how you can be a part of the Children of the Covenant.

At the end of the day, you'll be glad you did.





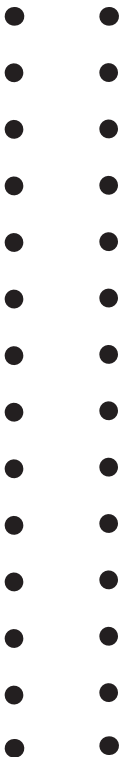
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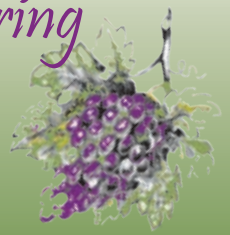
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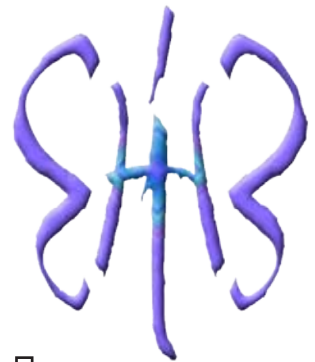


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*A Mermaid Out of Water continued:*

aroma of warm chocolate chip cookies just out of the oven. Before I realized, I was sitting in a waiting

room chair. "When your daughter is in recovery, someone will come and get you." Recovery? Was she going to recover? If not do they give it another name? As I sat there, feeling the room close in on me, I tried to hold onto the vision I last captured of her face. It was inconceivable that I might not ever see her beautiful smile again. That same smile which ignited every room she entered. The dreary double doors that teasingly tried to close tight haunted me. I felt threatened by my loneliness and was unable to take a deep breath. I wondered if this was what drowning felt like.

This would be a great opening for a book, wouldn't it? There is definitely that necessary hook to draw in the reader. Or, this could be a scene out of a feature film or medical T.V. show. But this happened. It was real, and not a fictitious concoction of words, but a day amongst the far too many days which were chronicled in the recent release of my debut memoir, *Mermaid Out of Water*. Suddenly, I found my child facing an unimaginable turn of events, changing her life, and of course my life, forever.



Reform Judasim: The Big Tent  
*continued:*

radically---and joyously---different than what takes place on other Shabbatot of the month.

But diversity inside the congregation will not be sufficient in the future. Rabbi Jacobs wants his "open flaps" illustration to be taken literally as a challenge to congregations to reach out beyond their walls to touch Jews wherever they are found.

Rabbi Solomon has accepted this challenge by conducting Shabbat evening services in a place called "Yoga Soup." Participants are invited to "enter an Island of Sacred Time – Shabbat through Movement, song, and a bit of Torah. After the class, all are invited to join in the making of the blessings over the Shabbat candles, wine and challah."

I didn't learn about this kind of Judaism in religious school.

And it wasn't in my seminary curriculum.

But I'm glad somebody thought of it, and somebody is doing it.

For in our rapidly changing world, the Judaism of yesterday will not be compelling to the Jews of tomorrow.

If there is any upside, I have become wiser, more knowledgeable about our health care system, family dynamics, and more importantly I learned about hope, faith and unconditional love. The lessons we learn in life come from every experience we encounter, whether they are happy or sad. Running away and hiding from the reality of tragedy will not solve anything; embracing it is the only choice. Then, and only then we realize that giving up can never be an option.

*Mermaid Out of Water* was not meant to be a book. It was not supposed to be shared or talked about. Its pages evolved over time and became a safe haven for me to write down my thoughts and feelings. Many people grieve silently and invisibly, which can only foster loneliness. Perhaps other people, particularly mothers, could benefit by reading my experience and find that they do not have to be alone.

**Mermaid Out Of Water** is available locally at Chaucer's Bookstore or online at Amazon.com or contact Randy directly at randelah23@gmail.com.



# Contributions - Thank You!

## Building Fund:

From **Barbara and David Mizes**, and **Dora and Misha Zilberman** in memory of Toby Parisse ✨  
In honor of Mike Wolff's birthday from **Joan and Sandy Schatz**, **Lynne and Tuli Glasman** ✨  
**Haida Foygel and Yaakov Livshin** ✨

## Cantor's Discretionary Fund:

From **Stan and Edie Ostern**, **Joan and Sandy Schatz** in memory of Toby Parisse ✨ From **Stan and Edie Ostern** in appreciation for a special renewal of vows ceremony ✨ **Dora and Misha Zilberman**, in loving memory of Elena and Abraham Schwartz ✨ **Sally Gertz**, in memory of Esther Kronich ✨ **Deborah and Brian Shafritz**, and **Ruelene Hochman**, in memory of Shoshana Lowenschuss ✨ **Kenneth and Charlene Zuckerman**, in memory of Esther Kronich ✨ **Amy Locke**, in memory of Lillian Mongite ✨ **Al and Ronit Anolick** ✨ **Robert and Joan Rothenberg**, in memory of Jane Rothenberg ✨ **Sarah and Barry Jackson**, in honor of their first wedding anniversary ✨

**Cantorial Endowment Fund:** From **Natalie and Ken Gaynes** ✨

## Emergency Medical Relief Fund:

From **Mina and Boris Berenstein**, wishing a speedy recovery to Jerry and Ruth Harter ✨  
**Larry Gordon**, in memory of Toby Parisse ✨  
**Misha and Dora Zilberman**, in memory of Gitl Royzman and Srul Foygel ✨

## General Fund:

From the following, in memory of Toby Parisse: **Amy Locke**, **Jack and Maryellen McInnis**, **Dennis and Marsha Cooper**, **Pam and Hewitt Lang**, **Tiburon Associates**, **Sandra Kamens**, **Sylvia Glass**, **Aaron and Ina Ettenberg**, **Pearl and Rube Boxer**, **Molly and Abe Presser and Family**, **Gerry and Beverly Kowalsky Ching**, **May and Bert Karin**, **Debbie and Steve Hartzman** ✨ From the following, in memory of Shoshana Lowenschuss: **Oscar Lowenschuss** **Sylvia Glass**, **Aaron and Ina Ettenberg**, **Yale and Eleanor Coggan**, **May and Bert Karin**, **Debbie and Steve Hartzman** ✨ **Esther Kronich z"l**, in memory of Judy Klein ✨ **Linda and Darryl Perlin**, in memory of Herbert S.

**Perlin** ✨ **Murray and Cheryl Welkowsky**, in memory of Esther Welkowsky ✨ **Bernice Kregel**, in memory of Charles Kregel ✨ **Burt and Wilma Chortkoff**, in memory of Abraham Rauband ✨ **Allan Ghitlerman and Susan Rose**, in honor of Ken and Natalie Gaynes ✨ **Sheila Golburgh Johnson** ✨ **Martin and Joanne Perellis**, in memory of Esther Perellis ✨ **Myra Taub**, in memory of Stanley Taub ✨ **Lois Kaplan**, in memory of Gil Kaplan ✨ **Carol Lee Skinner**, in memory of Esther Lavigne ✨ **Carol Deitch**, in memory of Mae Packer ✨ **Minna Stone**, in memory of Sally Shapiro ✨ **Molly and Abe Presser and Family** in memory of Bertha Prum ✨ **Diane Baskin**, in memory of Jack Marcus ✨ **Stan and Edie Ostern**, in honor of Mike Wolff's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday ✨ **Louise Blumberg Wyner**, in memory of Jack Lazarus ✨ **Joy Yellin**, in memory of Lilyan Zahalsky ✨ **Ruth Hartzman**, in memory of Robert Hartzman ✨ **Blanca and Leon Presser**, in memory of Gina Engler ✨ **Gerry and Beverly Kowalsky Ching**, in memory of Hyman Kowalsky and Shirley Idels ✨ **Minna Stone**, in memory of Albert Stone ✨ **Al and Ronit Anolick**, in memory of Mollie Anolick, in honor of Ken and Natalie Gaynes and in honor of the 2011 Confirmation Class ✨ **Sara Miller McCune**, in memory of Susan Watt ✨ **Susan LeVine**, in memory of Miriam LeVine ✨ **Judi and Harry Weisbart**, in memory of Mason Ehrman ✨ **Pearl and Rube Boxer**, and **Yale and Eleanor Coggan**, in memory of Esther Kronich ✨ **Mansour Soleimanzadeh** ✨ **Martin and Joanne Perellis**, in memory of Irving Perellis ✨, **Allen and Sima Minton**, with appreciation ✨ **Ken and Natalie Gaynes**, in memory of Seymour Blutstein ✨ **Edward and Dorothy Caplan**, in honor of Quan Greenberg ✨ **Armando Quiros**, in memory of Joseph Quiros ✨ **Yale and Eleanor Coggan** ✨ **Mort Barrish**, in memory of Renee ✨ **Barbara and Jon Greenleaf** ✨ **Lisa Rozsa**, in memory of Fred Kon ✨ **Natalie Myerson**, in memory of Paul Salter ✨ **May and Bert Karin**, in honor of Emma Semonsen's Bat Mitzvah ✨ **Eve Senn**, **Julia Smith and Lisa Rozsa**, in memory of Selma Liebschutz and Giza Rozsa ✨ **Winton and Sheryl Berci**, in memory of Albert Wells ✨ **Sissy Taran**, for Rwanda ✨ **Diane Baskin**,

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**Preschool Special Projects Fund:** From the following in memory of Toby Parisse: **Judy Meisel, Joan and Sandy Schatz, Alan and Louise Blumberg Wyner, Zoe and Danny Corwin, Bob and Leah Temkin, Bob and Joan Rothenberg** ✨ **Malka Drucker and Gay Block**, in honor of Sasha Drucker's pre-school graduation ✨ **Harriett Phillips** ✨ **Sylvia Good** ✨ **Ruth Levine** ✨ **Selma Cornet** ✨ **Libby Kane** ✨ **Anne Atkins-Rein** ✨ **Stanley and Tilbeth Hagendorf** ✨ **Jerry and Ruth Harter** ✨

**Rabbi Cohen's Discretionary Fund:** From **Richard and Liza Presser Belkin**, in memory of Marsha Jacobs, Toby Parisse and Shoshana Lowenschuss and in honor of Ken and Natalie Gaynes receiving the Viola S. Girsh award ✨ **Aaron and Ina Ettenberg**, in honor of Richard Silver's birthday ✨ **Mary Leibman** ✨ **Barry and Rhonda Mosesman**, in honor of the birth of his 9<sup>th</sup> grandchild ✨ **Dora and Misha Zilberman**, in memory of Haida Foygel ✨ **Ruth Levine**, in memory of Herman Kerber ✨ **Seth Blumberg**, in memory of Toby Parisse ✨ **Nancy and Jeffrey Kupperman**, in memory of Toby Parisse ✨ **Ruelene Hochman**, in memory of Esther Kronich ✨ **Tony Amorteguy** ✨ **Marsha and Jay Glazer**, in memory of Pat Glazer ✨ **Devora Sprecher** ✨ In honor of Lisa Rozsa's birthday, **Libby Kane and Rita Weinberg** ✨ **Julie Lopp** ✨ **Mr. & Mrs. Goer**, in honor of Hannah Ross' Bat Mitzvah ✨

**Rabbi Solomon's Discretionary Fund:** From **Ruelene Hochman**, in memory of Toby Parisse ✨ **Bob and Leah Temkin**, in memory of Louis Temkin ✨

**Religious School Special Projects Fund:** From **Sheila Golburgh Johnson**, in honor of the graduation of Rachel Cohen ✨

# Todah Rabah to All

*The synagogue is blessed with incredible members who give their time and talents to CBB. In each issue, we acknowledge several members who have contributed something special in the last three months.*

- **Solar panel team, who have worked diligently to help us get solar panels: Steve Honikman, Fran Lewbel, Blake Johnson, George Levinthal, Barry Mosesman, Dan Rothschild and Rabbi Solomon.**
- **Art and Bobbi Kroot for hosting a Party Book featuring Ikebana and a delicious Japanese lunch.**
- **Allan Morton and Ashley Monser for coordinating an engaging Tu B'av evening celebration.**
- **Sissy Taran, Jesse and Rhoda Colman and Michael Baker for coordinating and working at the Jewish Community Picnic.**
- **Danny & Ethan Briere and Paul Avolio for helping us clean out the shed.**
- **David Mizes and Mike Wolff for planting the beautiful landscaping around the back patio shed.**
- **Susan Rakov for convening the "Learning and Creating" sessions for our new Friday Night prayer book.**
- **Dan and Laura Habecker for organizing the Skofield Park Family Campout.**
- **Scott Ehrnstein and Jason Summers for building the BHY shed.**

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# Mitzvah Day

Sunday

October 16

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

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## Sisterhood Paid-Up Membership Lunch

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