

VOICES

Congregation B'nai B'rith

FALL 2013 QUARTERLY JOURNAL VOL. 87 NO. 4 • CHESVAN-TEVET 5774

OUR WALK Into the Wilderness

By Rabbi Steve Cohen

On July 30th, our son Ari dropped my wife Marian and me at Glacier Point in Yosemite National Park with heavy backpacks. Marian turned to me and asked, "How did we come up with this outlandish idea?" and we began to walk.

The outlandish idea was to hike 222 miles, the entire length of the John Muir Trail, carrying our lives on our backs, sleeping in our tent, eating reconstituted dehydrated food, and drinking water we would draw from rivers, lakes, and streams. We would not have imagined ourselves doing this just a few years ago.

Three weeks later, on August 21, we got up at 4:00am, and walked the final 13 miles, first climbing 2,000 feet to the Trail Crest, and then descending 6,000 feet to Whitney Portal,

where we came out and returned to the world of cars, telephones, credit cards, email, fresh fruit and vegetables, ice cream, pizza, our jobs, our families, and the rest of our lives.

Marian and I went on our own exodus journey. We were far away from all human civilization: no cars, no human structures, no roads ... deep, deep into the wilderness. If we had needed to get out, it would have taken us two long days to walk out. We did have a satellite device which allowed us to send daily

Continued on page 6

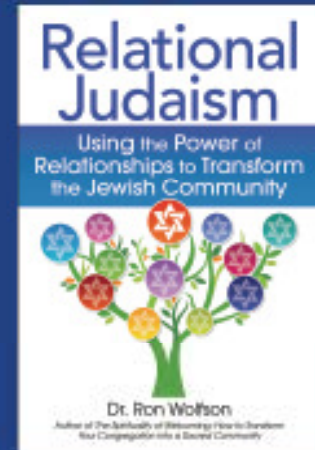


Rieger Scholar-in-Residence

Ron Wolfson

Visionary Jewish Educator
and Inspirational Speaker

Author of several books, including:
The Spirituality of Welcoming and
*God's To Do List: 103 Ways to be an Angel
and Do God's work on Earth*



Friday	November 22	6:00 pm	Shabbat Service Sermon
Saturday	November 23	9:00 am	Torah Study
Sunday	November 24	8:45 am	Sunday Morning Live
		9:45 am	Program

A special thanks to the Rieger Foundation for making this weekend possible

Shabbat Special Guest

Rabbi Samuel K. Joseph, PhD

*Eleanor Slesinger Distinguished Service Professor
of Jewish Education and Leadership Development
at Hebrew Union College*



Chinese Food and Jewish Identity... What is the Connection?

Friday, December 6th
Pre-neg Wine and Noah 5:30 pm
Friday Shabbat Service 6:00 pm
Oneg Shabbat following services 7:30 pm

Rabbi Joseph is also the founding rabbi of the United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong

The Greater Santa Barbara Clergy Association

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Tuesday
NOVEMBER 26TH
7:00 pm

First United Methodist Church
(corner of Garden St. and Anapamu St.)

*A communal worship service
of gratitude, celebrating our
common appreciation for living
in this country using the various
languages of our faith traditions.*



Sunday,
November 17

9:00 am - 1:30 pm

Hanukkah Boutique & Sisterhood Book Sale

Hand-made artisan gifts:
Ceramics, jewelry, crafts, knitted items and more!
And the Gift Shop is open

1st night of Hanukkah is November 27th

Hanukkah Concert



DECEMBER 4

Wednesday | 7:00 pm

8th Night of Hanukkah
Family Concert

Rick Recht

Singer/Songwriter

with the whole CBB musical community

Free to All

FREE In the Temple office: a Hanukkah packet with blessings to recite, songs to sing and games to play.

If you're introducing your child's class to Hanukkah, we'll add dreidels too!

For gelt, candles, menorahs, dreidels or hanukkah decorations,

contact the Temple Gift Shop: Jessica Glick 696-6289

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.

VOICES

Editor

Deborah Naish

Managing Editor

Kamila Storr

Contributors

Hallie Avolio

Cantor Mark Childs

Rabbi Steve Cohen

Talia Cohen

Ina Ettenberg

Shayna Goodman

Betsy Heafitz

Sonia Holzman

Yoni Khalatnik

Shahar Mansor

Ben Mazur

Ashley Monser

Deborah Naish

Josh Narva

Ann Pieramici

Hannah Ross

Elaine Rudin

Samantha Silverman

Rabbi Suzy Stone

Amit Weisman

Photographers

Howard Babus

Helene Glassman

Matthew McKenzie

Copy Editors

Rhoda Colman

Diane Phillips

Graphic Artists

Leslie Lewis Sigler

Kim McKeown

CBB SISTERHOOD

Gift Shop

The Gift Shop is open during "Sunday Morning Live" 9:30 am to 11:30 am, by appointment, and prior to holidays. For more information call Jessica Glick at 696-6289.

IDEAS FOR A STORY?

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Contact Kamila Storr at 805/682-3264 or kps15@yahoo.com.

INTERESTED IN

Joining CBB?

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

CBB Staff

805-964-7869

Rabbi Steve Cohen

rabbi@cbbbsb.org or ext 115

Rabbi Suzy Stone

rabbistone@cbbbsb.org or ext 123

Cantor Mark Childs

cantor@cbbbsb.org or ext 116

Deborah Naish

Executive Director

naish@cbbbsb.org or ext 112

Julie Ehrnstein

Director of Early Childhood Education

julie@cbbbsb.org or ext 336

Elizabeth Gaynes

Membership Director

elizabeth@cbbbsb.org or ext 111

Terry Grimes

Bookkeeper

terry@cbbbsb.org or ext 119

Gail Hart

BHY Administrative Assistant

gail@cbbbsb.org

Ben Mazur

Youth & Education Manager

bmazur@cbbbsb.org or ext 228

Ashley Monser

Facility and Event Manager

ashley@cbbbsb.org or ext 125

Audrey Okaneko

Office Manager

audrey@cbbbsb.org or ext 113

Ruth Steinberg

Religious School Director

ruth@cbbbsb.org or ext 227

Michelle Wong

Receptionist &

Communications Assistant

michelle@cbbbsb.org ext 106

Table of Contents

Spotlight on Relational Judaism

The Power of Relationships: A New Paradigm
A Conversation with Ron Wolfson.....8
by Deborah Naish

Finding Our Community.....9
by Josh Narva

Torah & Tonics: Where Relationships Rule!.....10
by Rabbi Suzy Stone

Havurah at CBB.....10
by Ina Ettenberg & Elaine Rudin

Volunteers & Leadership: An Interview with Rabbi Sam Joseph.....11
by Hallie Avolio

Israel Connections.....12
by Shahar Mansor, Amit Weisman, Talia Cohen and Hannah Ross

My Time at CBB.....14
by Yoni Khalatnik

Personal Reflections & Columns

Our Walk into the Wilderness.....Cover
by Rabbi Steve Cohen

A Passion for Community7
by Ashley Monser

Camp Haverim.....15
by Samantha Silverman

My Trip to Israel.....16
by Shayna Goodman

Unexpected Connections.....16
by Sonia Holzman

NFTY So Cal: A Guiding Light.....17
by Ben Mazur

FACES: Eric Boehm.....20
by Ann Pieramici

Cantor's Ordination.....21
by Cantor Mark Childs

Viola S. Girsh Award.....21

Time.....22
by Betsy Heafitz

Kirsh Essay.....23
by Hannah Ross

Skofield Park Campout & Simchat Torah.....24

Mazel Tov!.....26

Todah Rabah.....27

Tribute to Fred Percal.....28

May Their Lives Be For A Blessing.....29

Contributions.....33



OUR WALK Into the Wilderness

(continued)



tracking points and would have allowed us to send an SOS if necessary. But it really was a slender thread of connection back to home and to help if we needed it. During our planning, it felt scary, but out on the trail, we just felt free.

For me, the highlights were not standing on the mountaintops, although they were spectacular. For me, the best moments were coming around a corner after a long dry stretch and suddenly seeing a rushing, laughing river, water tumbling down the mountain, a lake with a perfect reflection of the surrounding mountain peaks, and overcoming our nervousness about the cold and just splashing and gasping in the water. Or in the middle of an exhausting day, finding a perfect bit of shade to sit and eat tortilla with hummus. Or getting into our sleeping bags at 7:30 having just washed out our dinner bowls, saying goodnight to each other and falling asleep exhausted. Or waking up at 4:30 in the dark, wordlessly packing up and beginning to hike by the light of our headlamps ... and seeing the dawn come up slowly ... the sky growing light ... the first rays of sun illuminating the tips of the mountains.

As you would expect, there were challenges. First, carrying the heavy packs. Getting clean enough. Knowing what exactly to eat, and how much. How much water to carry. Dehydration was a much more real danger than wild animals, but one liter of water weighs 2.2 lbs.

We had had some fears about lightning. We knew that in some years it doesn't rain at all in the summer, but that other years, a weather pattern forms in which each day the sky is clear in

the morning and then dark clouds gather in the early afternoon, producing dramatic displays of thunder and lightning. In that case, you do not want to be anywhere above tree-line when the lightning starts. We enjoyed two weeks of completely clear skies, and then in the third week, we saw the dark clouds gathering, and every afternoon for four days, we did experience the power and the fury of the storm. But we learned to put our tent up surrounded by trees, and to do it before the rain started, so we were snug inside while our tent was hammered by the rain and hail, with the awesome, terrifying, crashing claps of thunder ringing and echoing about the mountains around us.

Before we left, one of our congregants asked me: "Steve, are you going to hike on Shabbat?" To which I can only reply: "We didn't drive on Shabbat, and we didn't spend any money on Shabbat!" The truth is this: we were on the trail for three Shabbatot. We could not carry the extra weight of candles, and wine, and challah was out of the question. On the first and third Shabbatot, we camped next to unspeakably beautiful lakes, Marian offered the candle blessings over two Bic cigarette lighters; we made the motzi over a tortilla, and I chanted the Kiddush over water flavored with an electrolyte tablet. On the second Shabbat, we were at a rest stop ... Muir Trail Ranch. And for the first time in over thirty years, I completely forgot that it was Shabbat.

Two days later, far out in the wilderness, completely by chance, we ran into Ron and Becca Garber. I told Ron that I had completely forgotten that it was Shabbat and Ron declared, "I think that for you, that is the ultimate Shabbat!!!" Ron was right. Those three weeks, out in the mountains, deep in the wilderness, were for us the ultimate Shabbat.



A Passion for Community

By Ashley Monser

At our last CBB Mitzvah Day, Rabbi Cohen announced a pledge and we committed to help raise \$10,000 to outfit an entire treatment room at the new Sarah Wetsman Davidson Tower being built in Israel.

I feel that the Tower Project fits our congregational values. When I first started working here, just three short years ago, my husband Dan and I were struck by how welcoming CBB is to all. When I lost my mother this past year I felt the community surround me with comfort and healing wishes. As Dan and I expect our first child this December, our family feels blessed to raise our child with all of you. It is truly special to be a part of our community.

That is what the new Hadassah Tower is being built for. All people are welcome, Israeli or not, Jewish or not. The treatment rooms are equipped with the newest technology available, yet are still comfortable for the patients. The single and double patient rooms all have a sofa bed by the patient's bed for family members to stay close to their loved ones. Every room has a window with a view of the Judean Hills and there are healing gardens for patients and their families to find peace in.

Hadassah is building a caring and loving community like ours. So let's help them! Please give generously to our CBB commitment to fund the treatment room. We have raised almost \$6,000 already. If we reach our \$10,000 goal, it will be matched dollar for dollar by the Davidson Family Foundation.

Checks can be made out to Congregation B'nai B'rith with Hadassah Tower in the memo.

Thank you for your generosity.



Thank You for Supporting Sole 2 Soul

When Rabbi Cohen and Marian reflected on our depleted Emergency Medical Relief Fund, they asked our community to make donations in the spirit of support and in their honor for walking the 222 miles of the John Muir Trail. While we watched the movement of their hike on the Internet, our community rallied to raise \$23,000! Thank you to the 200 individuals and families who made contributions.

As an added bonus, thanks to the matching grant from the Santa Barbara Jewish Community Foundation Fund (SBJCFF), we have significant funds available to provide financial support for members of our community with acute and pressing needs for medical attention.

The Jewish Community Emergency Fund Committee is a collaborative effort between CBB, The Community

Shul of Montecito & Santa Barbara, Jewish Family Service, The Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara, and The SBJCFF. Thank you to these organizations and Santa Barbara Hillel for promoting this effort. If you would like to learn more about the fund, make a donation, or apply for aid, please go to www.cbbsb.org and search Emergency Medical Fund or contact Itzik Ben Sasson at itzik7@cox.net.

The Power of Relationships: A New Paradigm

A Conversation with Ron Wolfson

By Deborah Naish

About six years ago, as part of our strategic planning process, we started looking at ways to encourage more people to explore their own practice of Judaism and be more engaged with CBB. One of our key references was a book by Ron Wolfson, *The Spirituality of Welcoming*. This book suggested ways to look closely at what we were doing and how we could make some shifts.

This year Ron has a new book, *Relational Judaism: Using the Power of Relationships to Transform the Jewish Community*. We are excited about the concepts in this book and thrilled to welcome Ron as our Rieger Scholar-in-Residence this November.

A key premise of the book is “to rethink our value proposition to be one of offering the opportunity to be in face-to-face meaningful relationship with Jews and Judaism in a relational community that offers a path to meaning and purpose, belonging and blessing.”

Many people talk about how great CBB feels to them and how welcome they feel. For many of us, CBB is our spiritual home and our community. In part, I believe this is because at CBB we have been “practicing” relational Judaism for a while. In addition to regular programs where our members gather, some examples of relational Judaism are the strong bonds people have formed by participating in the Breakfast crew for SML and the once a month gatherings at Pershing Park or Transition House to serve food. Or the connection between the ten women who

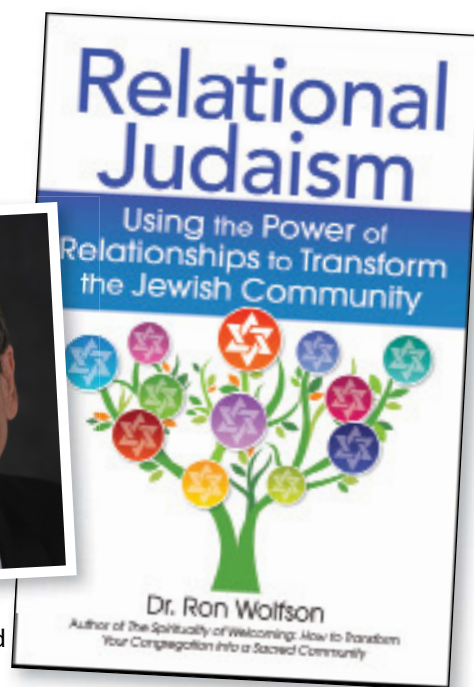
spent two years learning Hebrew and studying for their Adult B’not Mitzvah. And the opportunities to share personal stories through our Interfaith dinners and new member dinners at Rabbi Cohen’s home.

Yet, we also know there are members who have not found “their place,” don’t feel connected, and have not yet established close friendships with others in the CBB community. For some, perhaps you, this may be just fine and you are getting just what you want from the synagogue. Life is busy and already full!

And maybe you want more.

I recently spoke with Ron about his upcoming visit and asked him why relational Judaism is a concept that is right for today. Ron’s reply was, “I have been an observer of synagogue life and Jewish life for a long time. My concern is that our model of engagement with members has been program-centric. We’ve said, ‘Let’s create great programs. Let’s target them to specific audiences. Let’s get people involved in committees.’ And while synagogues have been very successful at this, I have also been watching the steady decline of membership in many communities.”

He mentioned that there are a lot of reasons for this decline, including demographic, geographic, and financial factors,



aging of the population and the question of the Millennial generation’s interest, or lack thereof, in organized Jewish religion. But his biggest concern is that most synagogues have done little to change the model of engagement.

It has become clear to Ron that relationships are the key to building a strong community. He is asking, “How are we spending our time? Where are staff and leadership putting their energy? How are members reaching out to connect with one another and how can we foster that connection?”

From Ron’s observation and research, “only a small percentage of members get truly involved and connected in a synagogue community. Everyone else seems to be in a transactional relationship with the synagogue. ‘Give me seats for HHD, a rabbi on call, religious school to get my child to their bar or bat mitzvah. Then I am out of there.’ What didn’t happen? Why don’t they stay? What doesn’t happen enough is getting to know one another enough and feeling a sense of ownership of the community.”

Finding Our Community

By Josh Narva

How long does it take to make new friends – real friends inside a genuine (new) community? When do you feel like you finally belong someplace? These are often long roads for people—full of anxiety and self-doubt. Thanks to the overwhelming warmth and welcoming spirit displayed by the entire CBB community, for my family and me the answer was less than two years.

Jamie and I and our two boys (Sam, age 6, and Mikah, age 3) moved to Santa Barbara from the Bay Area exactly 23 months ago. We knew no one here. Shortly after settling in, we went to investigate the only synagogue in town. We expected to encounter at least one sincere welcome—likely the person in charge of membership. However, what came next was a whirlwind of activity and involvement that has, in a very genuine way, shaped our lives in Santa Barbara and, to a large extent, our Jewish family life overall.

Right away, our oldest son Sam spent a year attending Beit HaYeladim preschool. That experience exceeded our expectations. It eased Sam's transition into a new town, while also helping him to grow and develop as a mensch. Thanks to all the Beit HaYeladim staff, most notably Jason Summers and Patrick Kearns, Sam thrived and gained confidence, while also staying close to his Jewish roots. He has since enjoyed the CBB Hebrew School, and soon it was his younger brother Mikah's turn at Beit HaYeladim. Fortunately, Mikah's had the same experience that Sam did, and he's blossoming as well. Still only three years old, he asks every day to hear "Ida" in the car and he is—we are quite certain—Cantor Mark's youngest and most enthusiastic fan. He plays his small ukulele at home and proudly sings "Shabbat Shalom, HEY"... just like Cantor Mark!

While our children's experiences drew us closer into the CBB community at first, the outreach from Rabbi Steve and Deborah Naish (and countless others) served to strongly reinforce our feeling that we'd joined a community that would benefit us, and one that we wanted to help develop. To that end, we were not only welcomed, but also engaged. This part of the journey began thanks to the open and enthusiastic welcome of our now



dear friends Amy Wendell and Dan Meisel, who literally and figuratively opened the doors for us. Others soon followed. Robin and Stu Young, and Robin's mother Barbara Katz (herself a new CBB member) invited us over for meals around Jewish holidays. Before we knew it, we had our own havurah—one that is still thriving today. We felt welcome and included.

This kindness, of course, propelled us forward in the community. My wife Jamie was given the honor of running the Purim auction this past spring, and she also had the pleasure of participating in the CBB leadership program run by Joni Meisel and Aaron Ettenberg.

I've often joked that when you express opinions in a synagogue community, you get put on a committee— and that is what happened to me. I've had a chance to interact with the rabbis about a wide range of topics and, somewhat to my surprise, earlier this summer I, along with Dan Meisel, was asked to join the CBB Board of Trustees. Based on my family's experience in the CBB community so far, it will be a sincere pleasure to serve.

I look forward to interacting with the many of you whom I have not yet had a chance to meet. As importantly, Jamie and I also hope to one day help welcome many other new families to Santa Barbara and into our community with the same warmth and compassion that we were shown.

Thank you. We are very happy to be here.

Torah & Tonics: Where Relationships Rule

By Rabbi Suzy Stone

Whether it is at a bar in the funk zone, at someone's home, or overlooking the beauty of the Pacific Ocean, there is one thing that keeps people coming back to Torah and Tonics—the relationships!

Less than six months ago, with the help of a few other young adults in the community, I initiated a program called Torah and Tonics. Basically, it is one of the few outlets for young Jews in Santa Barbara to come together to socialize as well as learn about our tradition and our sacred texts. Some weeks we study Torah, other weeks our conversations lead us into midrash or halakhah (Jewish Law).

Most importantly, however, the topics are created and initiated by the participants themselves. As Dr. Ron Wolfson teaches,



while a program may bring people into a synagogue, relationships are what make them want to stay. And while my goal as a rabbi is certainly to teach about the wonders of our tradition, my primary objective is to provide a forum for young adults to deepen our relationships with one another.

For example, one of my favorite moments this year was when we were studying a text about what God would ask of us if we were standing at the Gates of Heaven. In a moment of spontaneity I asked: "What is the one question you hope to be asked

Continued on page 25

Havurah at CBB



What is a havurah? The on-line definition from Valley Beth Shalom offers the following: havurah is a group of individuals who get together on a regular basis to study together, to socialize and to celebrate Jewish life. But for me, my havurah is my family away from family! It is what has helped to make Santa Barbara our home when family is 3,000 miles away. The word brings forth deep-rooted feelings of friendship, family, comfort, and support during times of joy and times of pain. After nearly thirty years together, we continue to share a special bond that has been passed down to the next generation!

—Ina Ettenberg

My husband and I joined CBB one year ago and immediately inquired about joining a havurah. We moved to Santa Barbara from Newport Beach and knew no one other than my daughter and her family. We moved because our daughter had twin girls. Over the years, we have belonged to many different congregations in various cities in California and have always "connected" to people through a havurah. We were very fortunate to have been invited into a very friendly, active, and inclusive CBB havurah that has been in existence for a very long time. I know how important it is to feel a part of a community, and with over 750 families, having a small circle of friends is the way to do it.

—Elaine Rudin

We are CBB's new havurah coordinators. What can we do for you? Are you in a havurah, but need help developing or expanding your repertoire of activities? Have you been in a havurah that is no longer gathering? Would you like to be in a havurah, or form one, but don't know where to begin? A havurah can be designed around many different factors: family lifestyle, special interests such as poetry, art, music, writing, riding bikes or golf, Jewish study and celebration—anything that describes you and the relationships you wish to develop at CBB. If you would like more information or assistance finding your havurah, please contact Elaine Rudin (elainerudin@me.com) or Ina Ettenberg (iettenberg@gmail.com). We are here for you!

VOLUNTEERS & LEADERSHIP:

Interview with Rabbi Sam Joseph

By Hallie Avolio, President, CBB Board of Trustees



On December 6-8, 2013, Rabbi Sam Joseph will visit Congregation B'nai B'rith. During his visit he will give the Friday night sermon titled Chinese Food and Jewish Identity...What is the Connection?, lead Torah Study Saturday morning, and conduct a retreat for our Board of Trustees.

I first met Rabbi Joseph at the URJ Biennial in 2011, where he taught leadership workshops for incoming board members. I was immediately impressed with his insight to leadership in synagogues, and in getting to know him better discovered that his passion lies in how Jewish institutions and organizations can best succeed in seeking to fulfill their mission and vision. I recently had the opportunity to speak with Rabbi Joseph regarding his perspective on overall leadership, and volunteer experiences at synagogues in particular. Here's what he had to say:

Based on your expertise working with Jewish institutions all over the world, what are some ways that you feel enhance a volunteer's experience?

Volunteers need a number of things to have a rich experience. They have to really believe the work they are doing is meaningful and makes a difference. They have to believe that what they are asked to do matches their talents and that they can do the job. They need to believe that they were personally chosen for the specific job and are not just filling a gap. Finally, they need authentic recognition that is specific to each person as an

individual. This is always multi-faceted and depends on the person and the culture of the organization.

Our mission at CBB is the following: "Congregation B'nai B'rith is a diverse, inclusive community of individuals and families building together a warm and vibrant house of living Judaism." How does lay leadership, volunteering and/or Board service add to our mission and enhance the congregants' experience at CBB?

I hope that lay leaders are exemplary models of the mission. Lay leaders must be active, vocal and passionate ambassadors for the mission.

What are some key issues that synagogues face when it comes to leadership?

a) People are not brought into leadership through an intentional process of experience and reflection. What I mean by this is that instead of implementing a thoroughly thought out plan to identify potential leaders, often the rabbi or someone else "suggests" an individual and he/she gets thrown into the work. However, volunteer leadership is often more successful when the type of person is identified first and then the specific individual is chosen for the role.

b) Lay leaders are not taught how to be reflective and how to evaluate themselves.

c) Lay leaders are not acculturated. Specifically, we don't do a good enough job of defining what the difference is between other non-profit boards vs. a synagogue

board. At the synagogue, we go from happy to sad to tragic moments and we are members of that community. We are all partakers of this, as opposed to other non-profit boards, where a volunteer/leader believes in the cause, but they are not necessarily in the community. At the synagogue, volunteers need to see their work as sacred service. It is more than being on the board of a community non-profit.

Being in sacred service means that you are stewarding the resources of one's religious community. You are leading the community that attends to community members' liminal (transitional and significant) moments ... the life cycle from birth until death. Even more, you ARE a member of the community, a life member. You believe in the religious, spiritual, transcendent nature of the community you are leading.

d) The work of lay leadership is to guard and advance the mission of CBB. That requires more than being fiscally responsible, though money is a key resource. Lay leaders have to be expert cultural anthropologists of their Jewish community.

What are some creative ways you have seen other Jewish institutions use to inspire leadership, that don't feel as traditional (or possibly as daunting) to those involved?

One thing to think about is that a synagogue as a community is made

Continued on page 25



Amit Weisman
Shahar Mansor

Israel Connections

// About six months ago, our international programming coordinator at Leo Baeck Education Center offered us the opportunity to be counselors at Camp Haverim, Santa Barbara, for two weeks. Without hesitation, we both immediately said, “of course!”, and that is how it all began.

First, we talked to the previous year’s Israeli counselors and heard amazing stories about the camp and about their experiences in Santa Barbara. Then we met Itzik Ben -Sasson, the camp’s director, and got instructions and basic guidelines about our part in camp. After a while, we received the camp’s schedule, including the days’ themes, and that’s when we started working together and preparing the activities.

The excitement for our upcoming adventure was so high that the ideas wouldn’t stop running through our minds! We worked hard, trying to prepare the most creative, fun and unique activities we could in order to give the camp a taste of our Israeli

spirit. Our activities included Israeli games, food, music, nature, culture, art, and many other adventures.

Being ambassadors at camp wasn’t something we took for granted. Not many eighteen-year-old teenagers get the opportunity to be called “ambassadors” of their country. It was such a great honor for us to come to Santa Barbara and represent our school, city and country. It was a challenge for us to show the variety of different cultures and lifestyles in Israel in just two weeks. That’s the reason why we made each and every activity different from the other.

Although our time in Camp Haverim was short, it was long enough to realize how great and warm-hearted your community is. Our connections with the campers and staff were unbelievable, and we felt as if we were already a part of the community. We left Santa Barbara satisfied but craving more and, of course, with an experience of a lifetime.

— Shahar Mansor and Amit Weisman



Amit Mitrany



Shira Labin



Getting to know, work with, and live with Amit and Shahar was an incredibly fun and enriching experience. It was, among other things, a reminder that Israel isn't just old historical sites—Israeli teens are pretty similar to American teens, aside from the Hebrew chatter and possible PopTart obsession. The programs the girls wrote for camp were terrific; from stories about flowers to Israeli musician Twister, I learned as much as the campers did.

The one significant difference in teen life between America and Israel is the army. In America, joining the military is a huge and fairly uncommon decision for an eighteen-year old, and is regarded as very brave or particularly patriotic. In Israel, it's simply something that happens, as the need for a defense force is immediate and local. Talking to Shahar, I learned a lot about the application and placement process. I found the range of service jobs really interesting; there's truly something for everyone. As Amit explained to me, people go in with raw skills, and in the army they're trained so they can do something great. I think it was strange for Americans to hear this girl say she was joining the army, and I found myself explaining on several occasions, "No, she's not going into combat. Uh, no, it's not really unusual there ..."

It was really a joy having the girls here, and I hope they will come back and visit. And hopefully one day I can do an exchange and stay with them in Israel!

—Talia Cohen

Talia is a junior at Dos Pueblos High School and a counselor at Camp Haverim.

This July, my family and I had the pleasure of hosting Shira, an Israeli young woman and a student at Leo Baeck Institute in Haifa. As far away as Israel is from America, we were both so similar. We enjoyed the same music, we laughed at the same things, and we had similar experiences. All these things we shared make me forget that we live just a plane flight apart.

As similar as we both were, it was obvious that Israel is different from America. For example, if a person here is able to speak two languages fluently, it is seen as anything but normal. However, Shira never ceased to amaze me as she quickly switched from English to Hebrew. Beyond this, a significant difference between us was that, while most American teens are graduating high school and going to university, Israelis will be graduating and entering the army.

Despite growing up in two different countries, Shira and I were able to recognize many little experiences we had both had through sharing stories about our families, friends, and Jewish upbringing. Through these conversations I realized how similar people are, especially young people, regardless of where we're from. It makes me happy to know that friendship extends way beyond the place I call home."

—Hannah Ross





My Time at CBB

By Yoni Khalatnik

When I met with Rabbi Steve Cohen in Israel this past June, I was still deep in exams for the army medical school, and looking beyond the exams and into the precious months until the upcoming enlistment date was almost mission impossible.

These two exciting landmarks—the tryouts for the army medical academy and the start of my watch as “Shomer Israel”, a defender of Israel—marred the two months of vacation for me.

This is the reason I didn’t put much thought into the planning of these months, until I met Rabbi Steve at Leo Baeck Education Center. At the end of our ‘catch up’ conversation, I asked him, without much planning, “Do you think I can come to Santa Barbara again?”

Five weeks later, with the help of Ellen Raede, the Goldbergs (my host family) and an anonymous donor, I touched down on the hot concrete of LAX.

The reason I came back is that last year I left Santa Barbara after two weeks of working as a counselor at Camp Haverim with my dear friend, Batel Mankovsky, with a big appetite to achieve and to follow through with three more goals:

1. To engage the broader community—more personal meetings, dinners, talks, parties and lectures inside the Jewish community and outside of it.
2. To help engage teens as active lead-

ers in the community and to better prepare them for taking on a meaningful role in Jewish organizations.

3. To build a strong bond of Tikkun Olam activities between the CBB community and Leo Baeck Education Center.

During this year’s mission, and thanks to Ellen Raede’s amazing organizational skills, the Goldbergs’ warm hearts and sharp minds, and your welcoming community, I’ve had opportunities to achieve all the above goals.

I see the last objective—strengthening our connection as twin communities—as a means to making a long-lasting impact on Israel’s society and to forming a communications channel full of information, experiences and ideas. This is even more true now that Leo Baeck is opening the first ever Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP)-inspired network outside of the USA, making top-notch education available to Israel’s weakest populations. One school has already been opened, serving Jewish Ethiopian immigrants population in Kiryat Bialik, and nine more will follow in the next nine years, serving all main sectors of Israeli population.

Leo Baeck was founded over 75 years ago, educating thousands of Israeli youngsters from the cradle up to senior year. In addition, it engages tens of thousands of residents of Haifa through the Leo Baeck Community Center and its satellite centers.

Continued on page 32



Leo Baeck student visitors



Camp Haverim

By Samantha Silverman

// Jewish camps are the most effective way to build Jewish identity and commitment in young people! //

This statement from a Camp Haverim parent is as true today as it was when it was made several years ago.

This year Camp Haverim was filled with an array of exciting activities and friendship-forging fun! Our dedicated staff did an incredible job of planning activities that highlighted campers' similarities while celebrating their differences. Through team-building exercises and hands-on activities such as Camp Haverim's drum circle and Maccabiah games, campers cultivated skills and problem solving strategies they will use for the rest of their lives. From educating our youngest community members about the importance of the environment on Nature Day, to instilling in them a love of the Jewish Homeland on Israel Day (and many other theme days in between!), Camp Haverim delivered yet another summer of priceless memories, lasting friendships and invigorated Jewish identity. This year we also had the pleasure of welcoming four Leo Baeck students, who served as counselors at the camp.



My Trip to Israel

By Shayna Goodman

This summer I spent four phenomenal weeks on the NFTY Israel summer program. At the end of June, I flew out of LAX and after an initial twenty-four hour delay, our group of forty-three participants from all over the US was finally united at the Tel Aviv airport. Soon after arriving, we boarded a bus for our four-day desert experience. Our trip followed the timeline of Jewish history. We began with our first Shabbat in the Desert Mountains, overlooking all of the land just as Moses had. After four strenuous days of hiking and sleeping on the sandy floor, we headed to Jerusalem.

Our counselors blindfolded us as we stepped off the bus and unveiled us to reveal the magnificent city of Jerusalem. I got to explore the market and the Old City and pray at the Western Wall. Then we headed south again to the Bedouin tents, where we spent a night before climbing Masada. I even got to ride a camel! We woke at 4:00 am to climb the Roman stairs of Masada. It took about twenty minutes, but felt much longer. We watched the sun rise on top and had services. Then we hiked down the treacherous snake path before enjoying the rest of the day at the Dead Sea.

We spent a week in Tiberias exploring other religions of Israel. We went to Mt. Beatitude to learn about Christianity, and small Druze and Muslim villages to learn about those religions. In Tiberias, I participated in a three-day Tikkun Olam program where we picked onions for families in need of food, helped disabled factory workers, and built a mosaic at a school for children with cerebral palsy. This was my favorite part of the trip because I got to help Israeli society.

Although I did not learn much Hebrew—other than cova (hat) and bak-buk mayim (water bottle)—I came home with a great connection to the country. It was a fantastic experience and I cannot wait to return to Israel.

Shayna is a high school senior, a madricha in Religious School, and is actively involved in SBORTY.



Unexpected Connections

By Sonia Holzman

I never dreamed I would get to go to Africa, but after helping to form a non-profit (realideal.org) and planning a leadership Summit for Deaf Youth in Uganda, I realized that with passion and the support of others, anything is possible. During the last few months of stress and unknowns before my trip, I turned to Eric Brody for advice and he immediately put me in contact with Pam Gunther and the Ubumwe Center in Rwanda. I read all about the center and the preschool project online, but never thought I would actually get to go see it with my own eyes. Amazingly, I ended up traveling to Rwanda and was immediately welcomed by the founders, Frederick and Zachary, at the Ubumwe Community Center.

I felt so honored to be able to tour the center and preschool and personally experience all the amazing things I had read about. As we walked into each classroom, the children's faces lit up and we were greeted with hugs, handshakes, songs, and dances. After visiting many schools and discussing the challenges for deaf children and people with disabilities in East Africa, it was a breath of fresh air to see children with light in their eyes and a supportive and loving staff. We had so much fun in the first few hours that two of us decided to stay the night in the area in order to spend just a few more hours with the children and learn more about the many programs they offer at the center. The draw that I felt at Ubumwe Center has remained with me and is a constant motivation to plan my next trip to Rwanda.

Sonia Holzman was born and raised in Santa Barbara and joined the temple family as a preschooler at Beit HaYeladim. Sonia is now studying child and family development as well as psychology at San Diego State University and plans to pursue a career within the realm of special education. After experiencing the education system in Africa, Sonia also plans to continue using her skills in developing countries.



NFTY SoCal: A Guiding Light

by Ben Mazur, Youth & Education Manager

Imagine a campfire. See the dancing flame, feel the heat against your face, smell the burning wood. Now take that campfire and surround it with 350 Jewish teenagers. Every single one lending their voice to songs of peace, praise, and friendship. Smiles beaming in every direction. No one seeming to care that all the other lights have gone out, and only the fire is providing any sense of direction in the darkness.

That's exactly what happened at the Leadership Training Institute for NFTY's (the North American Federation of Temple Youth) Southern California region. The

power had gone out at Camp Hess Kramer in Malibu, the host site for the weekend, but that didn't stop the largest gathering of Jewish teens in NFTY-SoCal's history from having one of the best nights they've ever experienced.

Contributing to this massive crowd were 17 members of CBB's own SBORTY (Santa Barbara Organization of Reform Temple Youth), a new record for attendance of Santa Barbara teens. The teen experience at CBB has reached new heights, and it is only going to continue to get better.

While most NFTY events are hosted at camp sites, there is the occasional need for a congregation to step up and welcome this amazing group into their community. The time has come for CBB to do its part, as we have been chosen to host NFTY SoCal's Social Justice Kallah (or as the teens call it, "SJK") the weekend of February 28 – March 2, 2014. This is an amazing opportunity for our local teens to be leaders amongst their peers and put on an amazing program in Santa Barbara.

This event is going to take the support of the entire community in order to be the best success possible. Wondering how you can help? I'm so glad you asked.



In order to accommodate every teen interested in attending (we are planning on 250), we will need host homes where our visitors can stay overnight. The responsibility of a host home is simple: provide a place to sleep, and give transportation to and from CBB Friday evening, Saturday morning and evening, and Sunday morning. These teens are used to sleeping on just about any surface, so don't worry if you don't have any extra beds in your home (couches and floors do just fine). These are well behaved teenagers who will treat your home with absolute respect. We ask that potential host homes be able to take at least 3 teens (all of the same gender), and no more than you can provide seatbelts for in your vehicles (if you can take a large number, but need an extra driver to help get them to your home, then we can help make those arrangements).

If you are interested in being a host family for SJK, then please e-mail me at ben@cbbsb.org (expressing interest does not commit you to hosting). Thank you all so very much, and I can't wait to share this experience with our entire congregation!

Mental Health Initiative

Sunday, October 27

1:30 - 3:30 pm at CBB



Alzheimer's Disease: The Basics, Memory Loss and Dementia

Learn the facts: detection, causes
and risk factors, stages of the disease,
treatment, and much more

presentation by the
Alzheimer's Association - Santa Barbara Chapter

A collaboration of Jewish Family Service and the
Mental Health Institute of Congregation B'nai B'rith

Questions? Contact Barbara Klein
805/957-1116 x 115
bklein@bbbjf.org



Israel and America: Two Zions?

Leon Wieseltier

- Award-winning writer & critic
- Literary editor of *The New Republic*
- Author of *Nuclear War, Nuclear Peace, Against Identity*; and the widely acclaimed *Kaddish*

Thursday **November 14** 7:30 p.m.
Free at Congregation B'nai B'rith

Jewish Book Club

AB YEHOSHUA



MR. MANI

Sunday, November 10

9:30 am Nosh
10:00 am Program

Mr. Mani
by A.B. Yehoshua

A deeply affecting six-generation family saga, extending from 19th century Greece and Poland to British-occupied Palestine and ultimately to modern Israel.

"Mr. Mani is one of the most remarkable pieces of fiction I have ever read and convinced me more than ever of A.B. Yehoshua's very great gift." — Alfred Kazin

For future dates see www.cbbj.org



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Enter the garden of our sacred language, the heart
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Second Semester: February - May

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For those who do not know the Hebrew letters
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Develop a vocabulary and a
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Schedule available in January

CBB Members \$25

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Questions?

Contact: Rabbi@cbbj.org

A Community Wide

INTERFAITH CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM



MLK WEEKEND SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday January 17, 2014 7:30 pm
Special Start Time

featuring the talents of
SoulAry
Russell Jackson and
the Select Few Gospel Singers
Cantor Mark Childs and
the Shir Chadash Choir

SUNDAY *Live* MORNING

8:45 am Best Darn Breakfast, Period!
9:45 am Program

January 5

Mike Prashker

Founder and Director of Merchavim
The Institute for the Advancement of Shared Citizenship in Israel
and Founder of Kulan



February 2

Nate Miller

USA: Speechwriter of Israel's Permanent Mission to the United Nations.
Top 100 Most Influential Jews in the World
lists him as one of 10 Jews that will change the world
And he's Jerry Harter's grandson.



FACES A Series Featuring Our Members in Their 90s

Eric Boehm

By Ann Pieramici

Coming to the United States nearly eighty years ago is the single best memory of Eric Boehm's life. "It changed everything," admits the 95-year-old founder of Goleta-based publishing company, ABC-CLIO, who graciously welcomed me into the Spanish Mediterranean home where he has lived for the last fifty years. Judging from the mountain views and bookshelves lined with family photos and travel treasures, it's clear that Eric's life in America has been rewarding.

Born in 1918 in Hof, Germany, he was among a handful of Jews in his small town. "Our family was quite observant growing up and the rabbi was a close family friend," Eric says of his childhood. He identified strongly with his Jewish roots, attending synagogue during the High Holy Days and "moderately" celebrating Shabbat. Though closed now, the temple where he became a Bar Mitzvah still stands. "There had been no discrimination before Hitler, but once he came into power things changed," recalled Eric, explaining that he was banned from places he once belonged and that friends started joining the Hitler Youth. "It was very discomfiting and painful for the Jewish people."

Aware of the cultural shift, Eric's parents shipped him to Youngstown, Ohio, in 1934, when he was sixteen, just one year after Hitler assumed power. There, he lived with an aunt and uncle. Eric says he was adventuresome and happy to have left Germany. His older brother, Werner, left a year earlier for France and his parents arrived in New York in 1941, the same year that Eric became a U.S. citizen.

Eric received his undergraduate degree in history and chemistry at Ohio's College of Wooster and went on to earn a master's degree in international relations. He enlisted in the U.S. Army during WWII, eventually becoming a First Lieutenant responsible for interrogating Nazi guards. He participated in the questioning of leaders of the Luftwaffe, the headquarters of the German air force and served as interpreting officer at the arrest of German Field Marshall Wilhelm Keitel, an event instrumental in ending World War II. "I received great satisfaction in being able to do that," recalls Eric.

He wrote a book on his experiences during the war and later completed his doctoral studies in international relations at Yale. He met his wife, Inge Pauli, while working in the headquarters of the U.S. military government in Berlin. They married in 1948 and seven years later founded the historical abstracts publishing company, ABC-CLIO, where they worked side by side until Inge's death in 2000. Eric says he always wanted to live in California and when he discovered Santa Barbara he moved immediately, initially operating his business out of the East Micheltorena Street home where he still resides.

His company is named for Clio, the Greek muse of history, and Eric says it's no accident that he ended up creating a company dedicated to preserving knowledge. "My orientation has always been towards history and in college



there was a historian whom I adored." That teacher would be proud to know that he partly inspired the creation of an international publishing enterprise whose bibliographic databases and reference books are standard sources for educators and students across the globe.

ABC-CLIO is a family business. Eric's eldest son Ron now owns the company, while his younger son, Steven, serves as CEO of another company, Boehm Biography Group, where grandson Jeff is the COO. Eric has four other grandchildren as well.

Eric says that his company is progressive. While offering e-books and webinars, he believes that there will always be a place for print. He still prefers reading books in print form and is currently in the middle of several, including Nuremberg and Beyond, The Jewish World and Historical Santa Barbara.

While reading keeps his mind astute, Boehm is also physically fit, which he attributes to "good luck, and a genuine commitment to do what I want to do." He admits, "I talk about exercise more than I do it," and later confesses another reason he looks so spry. "I have a sweetheart."

Cantor's Ordination

By Cantor Mark Childs

Until two years ago, rabbinic graduates from our Reform Movement's seminary, HUC, were "ordained" and all cantors graduating from HUC were "invested". The term the HUC leadership came up with was taken from the Book of Leviticus where Moses' brother Aaron assumed the priesthood and was given special garments to wear. Aaron and his progeny were "invested" as they put on a special tunic, robe, sash, headdress and breastplate. So in a nod to Aaron, cantors were "invested" while rabbis were ordained, just proving that even on the bimah it's all about what you wear.

"Invested" versus "ordained" was only a technicality, although no one other than us cantors knew what being "invested" was. Many county registrars refused to grant invested cantors the authority to perform weddings and it took the IRS a long time to recognize cantors as clergy.

These past several years, the leadership of the American Conference of Cantors has lobbied the school and the leaders of the Reform movement to do away with the term "investiture" and replace it with "ordination". Through persistent lobbying, two years ago the rabbinic and cantorial students of HUC-JIR graduated with a master's degree and an "ordination". But where does that leave me and the rest of my colleagues who graduated more than two years

ago? I am proud to announce that, "as a joint effort between the ACC and HUC, the College-Institute hereby grants all graduates of the DFSSM retroactive ordination status."

For some people, it may just be the clothes we wear. But in our tradition, words carry tremendous weight. I am now your "ordained Cantor". But feel free to call me Chazzen. I like that better.



Celebrating Marlyn! Viola S. Girsh Award

During Shabbat evening services on Friday, June 14, Marlyn Bernard Bernstein received the 2013 Viola S. Girsh Award for a lifetime of commitment and service to Congregation B'nai B'rith. Daniel E. Hochman, grandson of Viola S. Girsh z"l, presented the award. Marlyn served two terms as CBB Board President, as well as several other positions on the Board, and two terms as Hadassah President. Recognizing the importance of developing volunteer leaders, she funded

the Marlyn and Irving Bernstein Leadership Development Institute. In addition to her extraordinary leadership and support of the Jewish community, she has given her time and sponsorship to many local organizations in the theatre, arts and music world, serving as a director on the boards of the Santa Barbara Opera, The Lobero Theater, the Santa Barbara Symphony and Boxtales Theater Company. We are grateful to Marlyn for all she has done for CBB.





Time

By Betsy Heafitz

It's fall and many high school seniors are working hard on their college applications. In approximately 500 words, they need to demonstrate what makes them different from the thousands of other students applying to the very same school they are. Most of those other applicants have similar grades, test scores and activities, so the essays are vital for differentiation. It's no wonder kids procrastinate, get writer's block, or don't even know where to begin. When you read those essay prompts, out comes a sigh of relief that you don't have to write one of those defining essays.

Discuss a time when...

Time. If anything defines us, it's that.

Our date of birth, the day we die, and, of course, everything in between. Josef Brodsky wrote, "the more finite a thing is, the more it is charged with life, emotions, joy, fears, compassion." Yet, for me, the defining, charged, and rich moments come when the timing is off.

For instance this year, the Jewish calendar starts up a month early causing a major shift in the holidays. While there may be more stress from not having as much time to buy Hanukah presents, technically Hanukah is always in the same place as always, just not on our secular calendar. The normal flow of the holidays breaks from the norm, causing us to stop, think and appreciate.

The shake-up encourages us not to take the ordinary for granted, but perhaps experience the ordinary in an extraordinary way. Why is this year different from all other years? The time disruption encourages us to pause and think about what the holiday really means to us. The unusual timing can help us look at Hanukah in a new light (so to speak). One answer

is that this year we will share Hanukah with turkeys and Pilgrims, rather than a man dressed in red and his reindeer. The Pilgrims came to America looking for religious freedom, and Hanukkah, in many ways is also about wanting to experience one's religion freely. Or, rather than putting an emphasis on miracles, perhaps the time shake-up can show us the beauty of thankfulness.

Like numbers on a clock, holidays can indicate the passage of time. We return to our parents' home to celebrate, and as we look around, realize just how much time has passed since we grew up in that house. A treasure brings us back to a moment, but the house is so filled and cluttered, that these treasures enshrine time with the past instead of allowing motion into the present. And let's not overlook family dynamics. Gathering with my brothers and sister, no matter how old we are, we slip, ever so slightly, into who we were growing up. (I know I'm not alone in this, just wait until Thanksgiving). Gathering with siblings can be a very charged time that quite often shows us who we are, what memories we hold on to, what we let go of. We are thrown back into a

moment that is familiar from long ago, but are faced with the changes that everyone has been through since then, showing who we were and how far we've traveled (or in some cases, regressed) since then.

It's not just the big events like holidays, but smaller, daily moments that, when jarred, again show us what we take for granted. If the kids run late because they are slower than normal getting ready in the morning, then we can appreciate (after several deep breaths), that up until now, they have been getting pretty independent and taking care of themselves fairly well. Take a step back and with another deep breath, sigh—they actually do grow up so fast.

So, I have the utmost respect for kids going through the application process, working to find their voice and defining who they are and who they want to be at such a pivotal moment—not a child any more, but on the verge of adulthood. Hopefully, however, it will be a process that they incorporate throughout their lives—thinking about the person they are and who they want to be. As parents, we want to provide our children the education, guidance and tools they need to become that person. Time is a continuum, and we never know how many breaths we will have. But since we know our life span is finite, it's up to us to make sure that it is full and fruitful, a life charged with emotion, joy, and compassion.

Betsy Heafitz is a college counselor and has participated in education and college admissions for the past decade. She is currently finishing her Certificate in College Counseling from UCLA. Betsy has been active in the SB Jewish community in many ways, including serving on the Boards of CBB, Hadasah and the Community Shul in a variety of capacities. Her greatest source of inspiration is being mom to Solomon (11), Lesley (9) and Sasha Drucker (7).

Harry Kirsh Award

Winning Essay

The Harry Kirsh Award is presented annually to students for writing an outstanding essay and for their involvement in activities demonstrating Jewish values.

Mazel Tov to Hannah Ross, this year's recipient of the Kirsh Award.



1. Describe one of the most memorable/important experiences you have had that has shaped your Jewish identity to date?

Just thinking about the phrase Jewish experiences brings up so many memories—from the camp fires and song sessions of summer camps, to my bat mitzvah, all the way back to the then-interminable Yom Kippur services of my young elementary school days (otherwise known as “the day I got to miss school”). As much as I wish I could tell you that my most memorable Jewish experience was something of a striking religious epiphany, this is simply not the case. Perhaps it is because I have yet to fully define what being a Jew means for me; and I am okay with that.

Regardless, to answer the question, the most memorable experience that has shaped my Jewish identity was an argument/discussion I had with one of my neighbors in first grade. We were playing basketball on the street like we had countless times before. He is a church-attending Christian, and I am a temple-attending Jew. We began talking about our favorite holidays: Halloween, Valentine’s Day, etc. We had many in common. Then Hanukah and Christmas were mentioned. This submerged us into a deep and rather mature (especially for our age) conversation about religion. Rather than arguing as one may have predicted, we simply asked each other questions about each other’s religions.

After sharing the history, values, and stories of our religions, we soon began analyzing them. Together, we began to conclude that they were very similar and so were our personal beliefs. Among other things, we both celebrated the holiday of Passover, we both agreed the Holocaust was bad, and we were both perplexed by the idea of God. Most of the religious exploring of my youth was done through long and innocent talks with this

boy. Throughout our childhood he would come over to celebrate Hanukah with our family, and I would decorate his house for Christmas. In our relationship, we would sometimes stumble across conflicting components of our religions, but that is all they ever were—conflicts of our religions, not conflicts between us. We were able to separate the things we were told in religious school from our personal beliefs. He and I are still very close friends and we have done so much together. The fact that on Sundays he walked to church and I drove to Hebrew school never got between us. This taught me my strongest values: tolerance and the power of negotiating as a way to work out problems.

2. What is the most important thing that you did or learned during confirmation class this year?

Confirmation class this year has been an opportunity for me to address the role that Judaism has played throughout my life and, more importantly, the role it will play in my future. Throughout confirmation, I have been asked questions. My answers to these questions have revealed to me the foundation of what I believe. Confirmation has also served as the backbone of my strongest relationships. As our class went through the curriculum, the lessons we learned would remind me of the similar lessons we did during my time at CBB. And to each lesson I can attach a fun memory with my friends.

Together we have been with each other for every step of our Jewish experiences. With that has come a bond that is irreplaceable. There is just no way that I could recreate a relationship with anyone else that could become like the one my friends and I share. So, graduating confirmation will represent all of the challenges, experiences, and struggles that we have

Continued on page 32



Skofield Park Campout

By Dan Habecker

The Annual CBB Skofield Park Campout proved, once again, to be a fun and relaxing finish to summer, and a warm and wonderful way to start our temple year. Family, friends, food, and (camp) fire are the simple formula that makes this event work. As a special treat this year, we welcomed back our intrepid Rabbi Steve and Marian Cohen. Fresh off their three-week and 222-mile John Muir Trail trek, Rabbi Cohen and Marian captivated the Skofield camper audience with many stories of their adventures. Campfire, s'mores and music soon followed, as we eased into a peaceful evening of fellowship and incredible stargazing.

Can't wait for next year!



2013 Simchat Torah

On Wednesday, September 25th, we gathered to celebrate Simchat Torah.

Relational Judaism Continued from Page 8

Here at CBB we believe we have a significantly higher level of member involvement than the average temple, but we are also sure that we have a lot of room to grow in this area.

As clergy, staff and lay leaders, we are looking at ways to foster opportunities for people to connect face-to-face, one-to-one, during small gatherings and large ones. One of the reasons many of us come to Temple is to see friends. What can we do that encourages each of us individually to engage with people we don't yet know or know just in passing? Or to deepen the relationships we already have?

Ron reflected on our core Jewish value of welcoming the stranger. He talked about the idea of "relational moments." He asks, "How do you shape almost every experience to hold within it a relational experience? While clergy, volunteers and staff can set up programs and opportunities for relational moments, to really shift the culture would require many members seizing the opportunity to be in relationships with others and see this as core to their temple experience."

What do you think?

Are you interested in helping us build on our strengths and being a place that offers more?

Just to be clear, we are still going to have great programs and events! And, we are going to look closely at how to facilitate "relational moments" whenever possible, particularly during programs. There are many connection opportunities at and through CBB. Check out the article on Rabbi Stone's new "Torah and Tonics" program for twenty- and thirty-year-olds and the info about joining a havurah. Some things we try will work, some will not, but we'll gain more experience and insight along the way.

Please contact any one of us on staff or the Board to share your ideas or interest in this topic.

Torah & Tonics Continued from Page 10

when you face God in the world to come?" At first an awkward silence fell upon the room, and then a magical moment ensued when people opened their hearts and minds to the possibility of talking about something so incredibly personal. That moment, I believe, changed the mission of our group. While most of us

attend for good food, good drinks, and good fun, there is also a level of intellectual stimulation and heart-felt conversation that creates bonds far beyond what a normal happy hour event could inspire.

As Rich Cain said, "We've been waiting for something like Torah and Tonics for a long time. We love the get-togethers and holiday celebrations with YAD, but we were looking for something to deepen our connection with Jewish tradition. It's also really nice to learn with Rabbi Suzy in an informal setting."

What is so special about this group, in my opinion, is that it operates from a model of shared leadership. Each month a different participant decides the topic, does his or her own research and then leads the conversation. Therefore, not only do we meet people's interests, but we also rely heavily on their expertise. By providing this kind of forum, we have learned about topics ranging from business ethics, just war theory, and the ethics of our physical bodies. In the coming year I hope to partner with many more of you to create more informal learning opportunities where relationships rule. One such example is a new group we are calling "Mojitos and Midrash," which is similar to Torah and Tonics, but aimed at members in their 30s and 40s who are looking for a new take on old texts, as well as new or deeper relationships with other members. If you are interested in joining the Mojitos and Midrash group, please email me at rabbistone@cbbsb.org.

Interview with Rabbi Sam Joseph Continued from Page 11

up of a number of smaller communities. Some of the smaller communities can be thought of as "start ups" ... entrepreneurial efforts to meet certain Jews' religious and identity needs.

Rabbi Samuel K. Joseph, Ph.D., is the Eleanor Sinsheimer Distinguished Service Professor of Jewish Education and Leadership Development at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, where he teaches at the rabbinical school. His special interest is how Jewish institutions and organizations, from schools to synagogues to national groups, can be most excellent as they seek to fulfill their mission and vision.

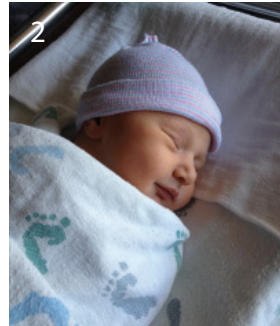
To hear more of Rabbi Joseph's thoughts and teachings on leadership and other topics, please join us during his visit on December 6-8, 2013. We're looking forward to seeing you there!

June through September 2013

Mazel Tov! In Our Lives

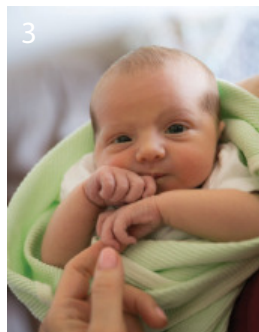


1 Grandparents Janet & Harvey Wolf, on the birth of Micah on July 11th to parents Jessica Wolf Simpson & Howard Simpson



2 Joie & Ben Krintzman, & big sister Presley, on the birth of Emersen on August 17th

3 Martha Richman on the birth of her granddaughter, Mary on August 28th to parents Molly & David Weitberg, in San Francisco



4 Paul & Hallie Avolio, brother Liam & sister Sabrina, on the birth of Gryphon on September 10th



5 Dr. Alex & Judi Koper on the birth of their grandson Alex IV on September 15th, son of Alex III & Amanda Koper



6 Rodrigo & Clara Bauler on the birth of Benjamin on June 24th



7 Andrew & Karen Rose on the birth of Jack, born on August 30th

8 Wendi Ostroff, our much-loved children's librarian, for becoming the new owner/director of the California Learning Center.

9 Ken Grand on the release of his new line of fragrances, "Sarabecca", which he named after his two daughters who grew up in our congregation.

10 Ann Levine, on releasing the second edition of her bestselling guidebook, The Law School Admission Game: Play Like an Expert.

11 Newlyweds Vicky & Chad Stephen, son of Julia & Phillip Stephen, married May 4th. They were a JDate poster couple & appeared on a Times Square billboard for the world to see.

12 Marina Manheimer-Taylor & Jonathan Schuller, married June 23rd in New York City.

13 Santa Barbara Hillel for receiving the Vision & Values Award as "Indispensable University Partner."

14 Ninotchka Bennahum, for the publication of her book, Carmen, a Gypsy Geography.

15 Margaret Singer, whose art works were featured in the local exhibit, "Pure Passion, Three Women, One Passion."

16 John Dent, Dos Pueblos High School teacher, one of three teachers in the nation to receive a \$1,000 Future Teacher Scholarship towards his masters degree program.

17 Susan Epstein, selected as First Place Winner for Santa Barbara's 2013 Cox Conserves Hero, for her leadership role as a Goleta School Board Member on environmental initiatives.

20 Judi Weisbart on the publication of her book: Portals of Life: a process towards Light, Insight, Focus, Empowerment.

Will YOU be joining Rabbi Cohen on our June 2014 CBB Trip to Israel?

Departing June 17, returning June 29

NOW IS THE TIME to decide and to register.
(Deadline to register and pay deposit is December 17, 2013).

All information and registration forms are available on-line at our CBB Trip website:
<http://keshetisrael.co.il/groups/3702>

Or in the Temple office:
To receive itinerary, pricing and registration forms, call (805)964-7869 or email Audrey@cbbsb.org



Todah Rabah to All

Ellen Raede for her masterful planning of Yoni Khalatnik's visit and the the Goldberg family for hosting him for the month. We are also grateful to Ellen for coordinating the visits of four Israeli teens from Leo Baeck Education Center and the following families for hosting the teens in their homes this summer: Levinson, Hunter, Brier/Feldman, Ross, Storr, Goldberg, Rabinowitz, Pieramici, Cohen/Karin and Pomerantz. If you are interested in hosting teens next summer, please contact Ellen at lnraede@gmail.com.

Ruth Johnson for finding and then organizing the visit of Laurie Rubin for the October SML. Doris and Bob Schaefer for donating 2 tickets to the SB Symphony which we raffled off at this SML.

Marcy Oswald for agreeing to be the coordinator our Shabbat Drivers.

Ellen Chase, Lynne Glasman, Ellen Hunter, Mimi Dent, Amy Locke, Sofia Pasternack, Diane Phillips, Dan Rothschild, Elaine Rudin, and Richard Silver for delivering New Member Welcome Bags.

We Welcome Our New Members April-September, 2013

Nancy Abrams	Everett and Rachel Lipman
Nicole Arrigo and Xavier Maignan	Joseph and Phyllis Lipman
Rodrigo and Clara Bauler	Sara and Uri Mandelbaum
Tina Beattie	Alex & Jacqui Meisel
Robert and Ann Benham	Rebecca Metzger
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Mashey Bernstein	Mark and Elizabeth Schulhof
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Keith and Pikun Konheim	Doug Weinstein
Elisa Krantz	Alicia and Shane Williams
	Craig and Amy Zimmerman

Becoming a member of CBB is easy. If you are interested, please contact Elizabeth Gaynes, Membership Director at Elizabeth@cbbsb.org or 964-7869 x111.

Tribute to Fred Percal

1919–2013

Fred Percal ז"ל, a member of one of CBB's founding families, passed away on September 8th. The following text is adopted from Rabbi Cohen's eulogy.

We have come together to say goodbye to Fred Percal, and in a few inadequate words to tell a little bit of the marvelous story of this wise, kind-hearted, fiercely determined and loving man.

Fred was born on December 10, 1919, in Santa Barbara, the son of Sam and Alice Percal. Sam was a Russian Jewish immigrant who had first come to Ventura to work in his aunt Bessie's junkyard, and then moved to Santa Barbara. Sam's first wife Alice died when Fred was a little boy, and after Fred's father remarried, his second wife Ruth was the life-long mother figure in Fred's life. Gela describes her mother-in-law Ruth as "the best!!"

Fred grew up in this town, a very different Santa Barbara than today. But his life history is completely interwoven with the history of our community. He attended local schools and worked for his parents in their family business, Percal's Poultry Shop. Fred's parents were among the small, scrappy, tight-knit group of Jews who in the 1920s founded our synagogue. And Fred was in the first Bar Mitzvah class, together with Macky Sanders and Cuppy Wallace.

After high school, Fred enlisted in the army and served in World War II. Near the end of the war, Fred went to a dance at the Jewish officers club where he saw a beautiful young Jewish refugee ... Gela. Gela had lost everything in the war, was living in an apartment in Belgium and already had papers to go to Palestine. At that dance, Fred and Gela met and while Gela spoke Yiddish, Polish, German and French, she only knew one word of English ... Hollywood! Fred did not speak any of those languages that Gela spoke. But he fell in love with her, and pursued her with patience and determination, until she agreed to marry him. Because she was an orphan with no parents to grant their consent, they had to wait until Gela turned



twenty-one, and then they were married at the Jewish Officers' Club. Gela came to the United States on a war-brides ship and then took a train across the country, to Fred's home town, Santa Barbara, where they made their life together.

It was not Hollywood. They lived in a shed together behind the poultry shop on Montecito Street, and worked together ... long hours ... in the family business. Their daughters Malka and Susan were born, and after saving their pennies, Fred and Gela managed to buy a small duplex near Cottage hospital.

We may not think of Santa Barbara as having been a center of Jewish life back in those days, but Fred, Gela and their daughters were part of a large group of Jewish friends, all of whom were very active in the Temple. They were at Temple every Friday night, and grew up attending Religious School faithfully.

In 1970, Fred sold the poultry shop, finally able to get his hands out of the ice—he really never enjoyed that work—and the Per-

cals went into real estate and enjoyed great success. And, as all of us who knew him are well aware, Fred never lost his simple, common sense, his down-to-earth wisdom, compassion and sense of humor.

We have seen Fred and Gela's devotion to each other during the last few difficult years. Fred adored Gela ... never for an instant stopped believing in her and her ability to get stronger and stronger, and to regain more and more of her speech after her stroke. And she stayed optimistic and strong by him, during his many medical crises. For me and for many others in our community, it has been simply inspiring to be in their presence.

In the last few days of his life, Fred could barely manage to speak, but as each new person came into his room, he would greet them, and make them feel how pleased he was to have them there. When the Cantor arrived on Saturday evening, Fred burst into a smile and murmured, "What are you doing here?" The Cantor read the final vidui for Fred and asked him if he would join him in the sh'ma. Fred sang the sh'ma with the Cantor and passed peacefully away a few hours later. To die surrounded by family and friends, conscious and at peace is what our sages describe as dying with a kiss.



May Their Lives Be For A Blessing

Mid-June to September, 2013

Kenneth Seymour Greenberg, father of Ken Greenberg, father-in-law of Barbara Walker, and grandfather to Joaquin, Miguel and Santiago

Sidney Singer, brother of Margaret Singer

Harold "Hesch" Chansky

Mark Toscher, husband of Pam, father of Loren and Allyson

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Jerry Taran, brother-in-law of Sissy Taran, uncle to Nadine, Francine, & Tiffany

William Bernard, brother of Marlyn Bernard Bernstein

Ruth Levine, mother of Richard Levine, mother-in-law of Nicole, grandmother of Scott & Jenna

Fred Percal, husband of Gela Percal

Ivor Lazarus, brother of Louise Wyner and brother-in-law of Al

Janice Larsen, mother of Laurie Constable, mother-in-law of Mark and grandmother of Alexis & Anna

Ruth Ross, mother of Jeff Ross, mother-in-law of Elissa and grandmother of Max & Hannah

Ha'Makom yenahem etkhem betokh she'ar avelei Tziyon v'Yerushalayim.

May God console you among the other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.



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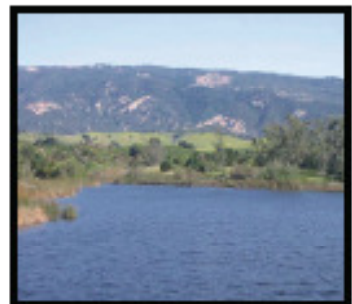


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My Time at CBB Continued from Page 14

If you join the CBB trip to Israel in June 2014, you will have a chance to experience the life-changing community work that Leo Baeck, the first school in Israel to be part of the Reform Movement, does all across Haifa, and to understand where a significant amount of my enthusiasm and energy come from.

It is our mutual responsibility to conduct the most important part of every project—a good, thorough, meaningful, follow-through: learning more, keeping in touch, and making a positive change happen.

During my talks at CBB, at dinners and meetings with some of you and in general talks and lectures, I stressed the significance of continuing the relationship between CBB and Leo Baeck, between us as individuals and as communities. Today, after finishing my service here, I know how much more we all can benefit.

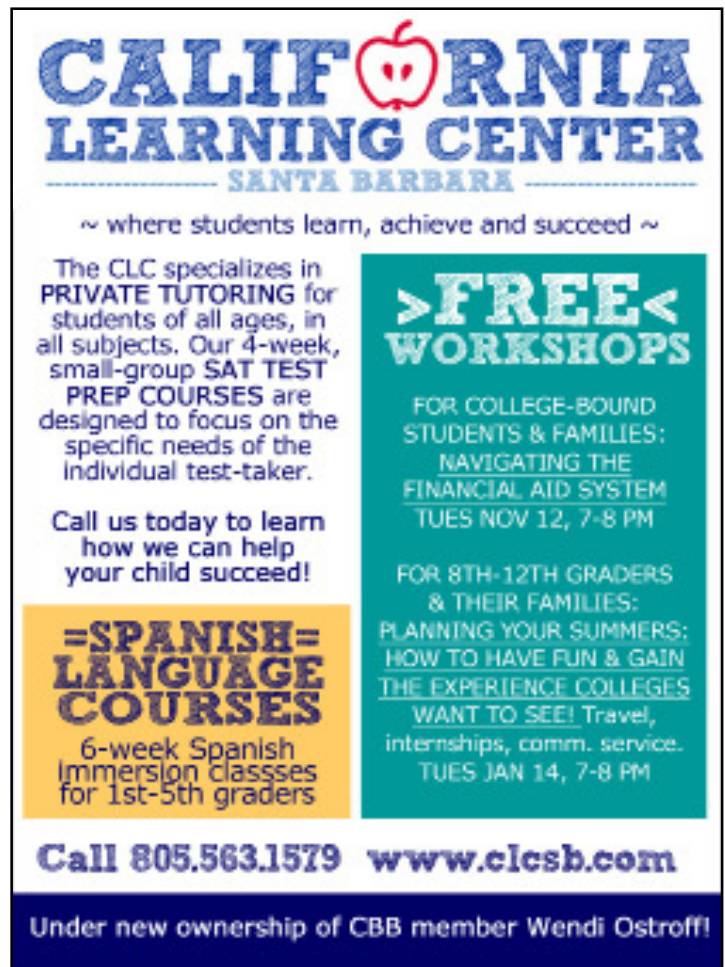
I end my stay here with confidence in what the future holds for us: I believe Leo Baeck Education Center will find outstanding teens to serve this community in the future, both at Camp Haverim and in longer missions, like a year of Jewish service abroad before army service. I have full trust in CBB's teens and staff to accomplish every dream they have dreamed and to execute any plan we've designed.

Finally, I have faith in the personal connection we've made, and in the power it has to trigger a bigger interest in Israel's past and present, in Leo Baeck Education Center and in the profound impact it has on Israeli society, and in life in Israel at large, because they are much more interesting, colorful and joyful than it is possible to imagine.

"The Lord gives strength to his people;
the Lord blesses his people with peace." Psalms 29

Feel free to contact me during October with any questions or ideas at Yoni@LeoBaeck.net.

Yours Truly, Yoni Khalatnik



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Kirsh Scholarship Essay Continued from Page 23

gone through together. It feels wrong to say one of the most important parts of my confirmation are the relationships I have developed with my classmates, but I value relationships only second to experiences. This is why being confirmed has meant so much to me; I was given the opportunity to experience intriguing new things, all while creating friendships that will last a lifetime. I am confident that when I am eighty years old and hear the song "Hey There Delilah," I will immediately turn into an eleven-year-old girl at sleepaway camp singing arm in arm with people under the stars. And no matter where I am, whenever I hear Taylor Swift's "22," I will flash back to our hotel room in DC during the L'taken trip.

Hannah Ross is a junior at Santa Barbara High School and this year's winner of the Harry Kirsh Scholarship.

Contributions June-August: Thank You!

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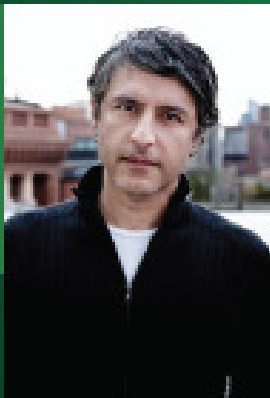
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