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**Cover:** Blessing a challah during BHY Shabbat. **This page:** Alex Phillips, BHY Graduate 2022. **Next page:** (left) The Brenner family attends the new Mishpacha & Me class; (right) Cantor Mark Childs at Shabbat service with 8th grade leaders during the JLP Camp Whittier Retreat (Photos by Jen Lewis).





# We Welcome Our New Members

**June 2021 to June 2022**

Peter Ginsberg  
Jonathan & Sylvia Zucker  
Rachel & Tessa Kaganoff  
Loren & Krista Toscher  
Allyson & Alex Toscher-Gallop  
Ammanjah de Vries  
Julianna & Glenn Steinbaum  
Caroline Green & Ivan Drucker  
Melissa & Kevin Galbreath  
Matt & Michelle Gross Simpson  
Jeffrey Shuman  
Kira Folk-Farber & Ori Barel  
Scott & Ashley Myers

Cameron (Jasmine Enriquez) Nelson  
Jennifer & Thomas Milford  
Julie & Eric Smith  
Monica Quintanilla & Aaron Goldstein  
Charlie & Emily Race-Newmark  
Steven & Kim Weixel  
John Margolis  
Bonnie Lady Lee & Brian Lee Frazier  
Charles Perkins  
Paul Mueller  
Eliana & Drake Whitcraft

Craig & Stefanie Shuman  
Heather & David Lerner  
Marcy & Bob Smith  
Rory & Naomi Rabe Sheehey  
David "Buzz" & Tina Ruttenberg  
Alan & Stephanie Soicher  
Regina Gerstman  
Lena & Mahip Sclove/Rathore  
Carole & Ron Fox  
Jake & Anna Burnbaum  
Elizabeth Dexter

## MEMBERSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Thank you for joining our community, for participating, and for contributing time, energy, and financial support! For information about membership, contact Mariela Socolovsky, Director of Community Engagement, at [mariela@cbbsb.org](mailto:mariela@cbbsb.org) or (805) 964-7869 ext. 104.

## *Already a member?*

*You can now renew your membership online at [cbbsb.org/current-members](https://cbbsb.org/current-members)*

# Reimagining CBB's *Future*



By Rabbi Steve Cohen



## **M**ANY OF US LOVE THIS PLACE.

Both because of its beautiful setting, up here above the town, framed by the mountains, and also because of the memories it holds for us.

Memories of our kids when they were in preschool or standing before the Ark at their Bat or Bar Mitzvah or being

enveloped by the singing of the Cantor and the choir on High Holidays, or sitting with friends and enjoying Sunday Morning Live and the Best Darn Breakfast in town.

Even new arrivals often remark to me what a wonderful community we have created here. We have missed it during Covid, and it has felt so good to be back, at the Hannukah and Purim celebrations. We have been reminded that this place has a healing power!

This winter, we are going to be moving out again for a period of time. We will be relocating all of our communal gatherings, everything except the preschool, so that this sacred place can undergo a metamorphosis. It is going to be by far the most important transformation of this home of ours since it was first built almost 60 years ago. A metamorphosis.

The vision for this project begins with recognizing how much we have changed since our building was built in the 1960's. Our community has grown from 200 families to over 800 families. Even more profoundly, for the majority of our Jewish community, religious services are no longer the primary expression of their Jewish identity.

In the 1960's Jews came to Temple to pray, and Hebrew school was for learning the language of prayer. Nowadays, for most of us, being Jewish means being part of a vibrant, creative, loving community that is committed to raising our children together, and to living and transmitting the vast

Jewish tradition of ethical values, music, stories, food, art, holidays, and tikkun olam.

Our new Temple campus will reflect this profound change in what it means to be Jewish.

We are transforming this campus into a *center for Jewish community and culture*.

And one more thing about how we have changed. In the old days, in the old country and after first coming to America, Jews lived together in physical proximity to each other. So they found community every time they stepped outside their front door. That is not true here. There is no Jewish neighborhood in Santa Barbara; and so we are re-imagining *this place* as our *shared Jewish neighborhood*. A place to meet each other, and not just on special occasions.

A place for discussions and concerts, films and plays. A house of prayer and a center to explore different forms of Jewish spirituality. A center for dance classes and for yoga. For making music and for cooking. All of our generations, children and adults, teenagers and senior citizens will meet each other here, all week long. Not only on special occasions. It will be our community center.

Best of all, we will come here on Shabbat, and we might stay all day long. Perhaps to sing or to pray or to study, but more often just to sit outside in the gardens, to visit with friends, to enjoy a picnic lunch, to listen to live music. All day long, until three stars appear in the sky and we gather together to light a braided candle and to smell the spices of Havdalah.

That is the dream. That's what we are building, together. ■

*For up-to-date information about our Building Dreams project, visit [cbbsb.org/building-dreams](https://cbbsb.org/building-dreams)*

## "What Aspect of Building Dreams Excites You the Most?"

Interviews by Phoebe Light

*"I have been part of CBB since I was a little girl and I have loved every minute of it...I am most excited to explore the new art room. Some of my favorite memories at CBB was going to art classes with Laurie Greene and I hope the kids will have the same experience I had—but instead with an amazing Art Room."*



**Micah Sage**  
Mechina (grades 9-12) participant, and  
Netivot Madricha

*"Like CBB as a whole, the Building Dreams project is so varied it offers many different opportunities for different members. For me it is going to be help in making Shabbat more of a reality. I find it very hard relaxing at home taking a day of rest and spiritual focus when I'm surrounded by so many enticing things to accomplish."*

*I got quite excited by Rabbi Cohen's vision of the new extended outdoor space we are going to have, with appealing shady areas to sit and meet and relax with CBB friends all afternoon, maybe listen to music. And most important—be far away from the tempting distractions at home that make keeping Shabbat a bit of a struggle rather than a joy. So, yay Building Dreams—I really think it is going to change our lives for the better!"*



**Nick Woolf**  
CBB Treasurer, Board of Trustees

*"I am eight years old. I am most excited to come here on the weekend for Shabbat and being able to play on the new playground and have a picnic with my family. I am also excited about the Art Room and the Teaching Kitchen. I like cooking and I love arts and crafts. I look forward to painting with my friends."*



**Charlotte Wittman**  
BHY Graduate and Netivot participant

*"I am most excited about the Teaching Kitchen and perpetuating the joys and traditions of Jewish cooking and baking for generations to come. I look forward to working in the state-of-the-art facilities, cooking with the kids, and watching them experience the joy of Jewish food by making it themselves."*

*I am glad to have the chance to be Chef Doug to the next generation. I also look forward to establishing a program called Yad B'Yad, which means "Hand in Hand," whereby families with lifecycle events will volunteer to work at each other's events, allowing them to host nice events at a very affordable price."*



**Doug Weinstein, aka Chef Doug**  
Frequent cook, baker and instructor

*"I have been a member since 1981, and I like the new Center for Jewish Learning. The teaching of the young schoolchildren will be more comfortable. I love the idea that our temple will become a beautiful and attractive center for the whole Jewish community in Santa Barbara."*



**Devora Sprecher**

# Where Do We Go From Here?

## An Update from the Campus Renewal Committee

By Judi Koper and Martie Levy

**I**T IS HARD TO BELIEVE it has been six years since we began working with a standout team of professionals, consultants, and our brilliant CBB clergy and staff to understand what kind of improvements, needs and program objectives our property and facilities needed, and how we could achieve them.

Rabbi Cohen had the initial vision, our CBB leadership and Board had the passion and resolve to advance a collaborative and comprehensive process to translate that vision, and together with Blackbird Architects and Schipper Construction, we are getting closer to witnessing Building Dreams become a reality.

We hope you had the opportunity to see the Building Dreams slide show in person at our “Show & Tell” event this spring (which you can now view on the CBB website), or to see the boards with the beautiful architectural renderings of all the changes that will be taking place.

Just as all of us have endured uncertainty and experienced challenges over the last several years, so has our project. We have had to manage through delays due to Covid as well as maneuvered in an extremely difficult and expensive construction market. The resiliency and leadership of Diane Zipperstein, our outgoing President, Elizabeth Gaynes, executive director, and her staff, our amazing clergy and everyone involved has enabled us to meet and overcome these challenges without compromising our dreams and continue moving forward with enthusiasm.

**So, what will the next couple of years look like?**



Judi Koper



Martie Levy

### CBB's Campus Renewal Committee

#### Co-Chairs

Judi Koper and Martie Levy

#### Members

Steven Amerikaner, Ray Aronson, Rabbi Cohen, Elizabeth Gaynes, Ron Gleiberman, Lauren Katz, Rick Sanders, Nancy Sheldon, Craig Zimmerman, Diane Zipperstein



The New Central Promenade.



New Sacred Space and Library.



CBB recently retained the services of Cameron Carey of the Tynan Group to be our Project Manager. In close consultation with the Building Dreams leadership team, Cameron will be overseeing our project throughout construction.

We feel very fortunate to be working alongside Cameron. He brings to us over 23 years of experience, specializing in working with local non-profits, such as Crane School, SB Zoo and the Music Academy. Our wonderful partner Blackbird Architects is continuing their expert work and currently completing construction documents. Along with a wealth of consultants and subcontractors, Blackbird is crafting in meticulous detail the interior and exterior plans for the project, with the goal of submitting our construction documents to the County of Santa Barbara to obtain our Building Permits by early Summer.

We anticipate being out to bid in November and under construction in early 2023. We look forward to celebrating the groundbreaking for Building Dreams with everyone.

One of our challenges as we prepare for groundbreaking is where we will gather for the many programs and events that we are all so fortunate to be back to doing in person. A relocation dream team has been assembled, including Jeff Kupperman, Janet Wolf and Craig Zimmerman.

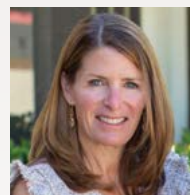
Together with Elizabeth Gaynes they are working to find the best options to meet the needs of our congregation during construction. Only our Beit HaYeladim preschool will be remaining

*Continued on page 21*

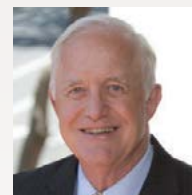
## Building Dreams Campaign Update

*By Steven Amerikaner and Nancy Sheldon*

We are excited to share that our community has enthusiastically supported the Building Dreams Campaign and is giving generously to ensure its success. To continue this exciting momentum, we encourage everyone at CBB to join us and participate! Below is how we arrived here, where we are now, and where we hope to go:



*Nancy Sheldon*



*Steven Amerikaner*

### Campaign History

Securing initial financial support for Building Dreams began in October 2020. This phase of the campaign involved one-on-one conversations as well as small group “Parlor Meetings” in private homes with prospective donors. These efforts will continue through 2022 and into 2023.

On April 3, 2022, we gathered to share Building Dreams more widely, launching the Congregational phase of the campaign. Our hope is that each member family will be inspired to make a meaningful gift to this project. This phase will be ongoing through the start of construction as we hope to have support and participation from the entire community.

### Funding Progress

As of June 2022, CBB has received just over \$13 million in pledges and gifts. The current goal for the campaign is \$15 million, and—with your support—we are confident that we will reach this goal.

It is noteworthy that several gifts are multi-generational family commitments, with two and three generations coming together to support the Building Dreams project. Naming opportunities are available for gifts of \$100,000 or more.

### Join Us

We welcome your interest in Building Dreams and would be delighted to speak with you about the campaign. Let us know if you would like to join us or have interest in hosting a parlor meeting where we will share more details about goals, the construction, and the capital campaign in a small-group setting. Feel free to reach out to Elizabeth Gaynes at [elizabeth@cbbsb.org](mailto:elizabeth@cbbsb.org) if you have any questions or would like to discuss making a gift. More information is available at [cbbsb.org/capital-campaign](https://cbbsb.org/capital-campaign).

*Steven Amerikaner and Nancy Sheldon are Co-Chairs of the Building Dreams Campaign*

# Reflections on CBB's 95th Anniversary

Interviews by Cantor Mark Childs

*As our congregation marks its 95th anniversary, we thought we'd check in with some of CBB's multi-generational families. Some are the grandchildren of our founding members (Daniel Hochman and Scott Tevis) while others are longstanding members (Heimbergs, Kuppermans, Meisels, Youngs) – not to mention the parents and grandparents of children who we expect be the leaders of our congregation in the decades to come. We asked them to pause and reflect on CBB's past and to think about what the future might hold for our warm, vibrant, vital congregation.*

—Cantor Mark Childs

**Jeffrey &  
Jana Young**

**JANA AND I BOTH** came from synagogues in the West Los Angeles area. We came to Santa Barbara in 1984

and looked for a synagogue where we could become part of the local Jewish community and which had a pre-school for our children.

Many things have change during our time here. The number of families, congregants, gatherings, and programs has dramatically increased. And, we've added an outdoor chapel, an associate Rabbi, more outreach into the general community, and with other faith traditions, more inclusiveness.

One result of our time here is that our three children at-



tended Beit HaYelaldim, became B'nai mitzvah and we affirmed our wedding vows at a temple service.

And 95 years from now? We'll have three times the families? Increased number of clergy? One thing is

for sure -- we'll be an even more vibrant Jewish community with a thriving pre-school! ■



**Daniel Hochman**

## WHAT HAS CHANGED AT CBB DURING MY LIFETIME?

Everything has changed! I have been a member of CBB for over 60 years and nothing is the same. My first memories are of a crowded gathering space filled with chairs, and a service with

music happening around the corner in another larger space. I could hear the music but not see the musicians or singers. It all seemed very important.

This was on Santa Barbara Street, downtown. In religious school, we danced on the driveway, and learned in the garage. The congregation was so big that it was outgrowing this once spacious converted residence. We gathered at the Miriamar Hotel conference room for Passover and at the Riviera Theatre for High Holidays. I was young and saw everything from a wide-eyed perspective. Now I am an adult, and I see the care and effort it takes to run a synagogue.

And nothing has changed! CBB feels now as it felt then; a lovely place to spend time with lovely people. It still has a board that cares deeply for its congregation, and clergy that are devoted to their life filled with Judaism, sharing it with us, and helping us find our own.

We still have staff and educators and workers and volunteers who make the operations of CBB their top priority, and the people of CBB their friends and trusted partners. And looking forward is not so different from looking backward. We will still need to venture from our campus to meet for events and services: hotel conference rooms, event centers, movie theatres.

Who knows what our team will find for us while we renovate our religious and staff centers during the Building Dreams years. I'm sure it will be lovely, warm, and perfect. We are CBB, and that doesn't change! ■





**Joni Meisel**

**WHEN WE GOT HERE,** Paul and I were hoping to find a congregation in Santa Barbara that would partner with us in raising our Jewish children. As in the course of any congregation's life, there

have been ebbs and flows in the culture and atmosphere within the walls of the congregational building.

For two decades now, we have had a warm, welcoming and fun-loving team that sets a tone and agenda for connections within our membership and congregational involvement – for adults and students as well.

And our congregation has responded in kind. We were an isolated Jewish community in 1970. With the student organizational connections within and beyond Santa Barbara, from youth group activities to the confirmation trip to Washington (pre-Covid), our students have opportunities to bond, and feel less “alone in their Jewishness” in our relatively small community, a welcome change and growth indeed over these 50+ years.

What's the lasting legacy of a family like ours? Rather than legacy, I would prefer to consider influences. My contributions include co-chairing the committee that brought Cantor Mark to our pulpit. Perhaps legacy, but I am quite proud of that decision. I also hope that my stated discomfort with tickets for High Holidays and required minimum for membership dues sowed some seeds of conversation that eventually led to the change for both of those issues a number of years later.

In addition, our relationship with clergy allowed for a conversation that led directly to the clergy's decision to perform interfaith marriage ceremonies. If the above can be considered legacy, it would be the expression of our value of inclusion in our congregation.

What do we think CBB will look like 95 years from now? We hope for a vibrant and thriving Jewish campus, constantly buzzing with membership interactions and impactful connections for all ages that will be a spiritual and community haven. ■

**Jeffrey & Nancy Kupperman**

**THE DAY WE MOVED** to Santa Barbara in 1981, Jeffrey began his medical practice and Nancy left the movers at our new house and drove up to CBB. There she met Sylvia Glass, and began a 40-year love affair with CBB and our wonderful Jewish community.

Having moved here from a vibrant Jewish community in Los Angeles, we were anxious to find a similar life in Santa Barbara. We were not disappointed.

Early on, we were invited to Ruth and Bob Hartzman's home, along with other young families, to inaugurate our Havurah, which has continued to be an important foundation for our life in Santa Barbara.

During our time here we have been fortunate to witness the tremendous growth of CBB and the entire Jewish community. When we first moved here, there were maybe 250 CBB families. Now we are amazed to see more than 800!

What has not changed is the warmth and feeling of closeness and caring that we have always felt here.



We are so blessed that two of our three children, Asher and Eli, along with their incredibly loving and understanding wives, Elizabeth and Stephanie (and four of our eight grandchildren) have made Santa Barbara and CBB their home. (Shira, Adam and their four kids live in Nashville and visit regularly). Our grandchildren, like our children before them, have been graced with attending Judy Meisel's Beit HaYeladim, and have welcomed and infused Judaism into their daily lives.

We anticipate that over the next century, BHY, CBB, and our entire Jewish community will continue to grow and thrive. We owe special thanks to all CBB's leadership and clergy over the past 40 years, and special appreciation of our current Havurah Atid members, the Gelbergs, Mayers, Perlins, and Wolfs, who have been such a huge part of our family's lives for over 40 years.

Thank you, CBB! ■

## Reflections on CBB's 95th Anniversary *continued*



**Karen Schloss Heimberg**

### WHEN I FIRST JOINED

**CBB** I was in college at UCSB. I came looking for a sense of Judaism and "my people," that I lacked in my everyday Santa Barbara life. What I found here was a community of

friends of all age ranges. I think Rabbi Kendall must have convinced me to teach at the "academy."

One year we put on a "Spaghetti Dinner" to raise funds for Ethiopian Jews, who were immigrating because of the extreme anti-Semitism in their home. I was young and inexperienced, but with the help of Sol Frank from the B'nai B'rith Lodge, we raised a good amount of tzedakah! It was quite a wonderful experience for us all.

So much has changed for the good at CBB. The community is strong and healthy! The intersection of generations is the key, making us feel like a family, rather than just a group of people. Another thing that has changed is the building.... and the number of members. The growth of the community has been exciting to see! The thing that hasn't changed is the heart. The heart of this community has always been present, through thick and thin.

I hope my family has some lasting legacy. I am probably not the right person to ask about that, but it's an interesting exercise. Both Rick and I came from a long unbroken line of Jews, and each of our children has chosen a (wonderful) spouse outside of our religion. So, our legacy is yet to be seen.

From this vantage point, I hope that our progressiveness will speak loud enough to our children to be inclusive, warm, loving, accepting, and open. Open to differences and similarities, and that they will continue Judaism in that manner. In my mind and heart, the reason to bring my family up Jewish is to learn and feel that we are a part of a continuum and that humanity does not center around "me." We acknowledge that there are those who came before us, those of us here, and those who will come after us.

By saying the Shema, we recognize that continuum, and our values. These values are not ours alone. Many religions have those values. But here we are, and we too have those ideals to share, and to live every day Jewishly, with respect and value for others, with an eye towards repair and tzedakah.

As a child of a German immigrant, I am keenly aware of the pitfalls of not knowing and acknowledging who you are. I hope that 95 years from now, this community will exist in some form, carrying those same values I just spoke of, and that my children's children will carry those values with them in their hearts. I hope too, that the world can accept all kinds of religions and peoples, and that there will not be any more genocides and we can all live as one (you may say I am a dreamer, but I am not the only one). I hope that the world can be repaired. ■

### Scott Tevis

My forebearers started CBB because they were looking for a place for the few Santa Barbara Jewish families at the time to share in their mutual religion and culture.

Did CBB provide them with what they were seeking? Yes, and they must have been onto something. CBB is larger now than it ever has been.

During their lifetimes, my forebearers witnessed the growth of the Jewish community and desire to build it further.

And when I first started coming to CBB, I was also looking for connection and continuity.

What's changed during my time here? The number of families has grown and the CBB programming has too.

But the lasting legacy of my family has been helping to keep the Jewish community flourishing in Santa Barbara.

And 95 years from now? I think CBB will look much the same—but maybe with 1,000 families! ■





# Combating Homelessness with *nefesh*—and NEFESH

By Rabbi Daniel Brenner

**I**T WAS A COLD AND WET Monday night in December. I sprinted into Smart & Final, eager to get some protection from the pouring rain. The following day would be our congregation's first meal served at the new Neighborhood Navigation Center (NNC) at the Carrillo commuter lot. The rain was forecast to continue into the following day, so I went straight for the chili, thinking it would be the perfect salve to the bitter weather.

When I was six years old, I asked my parents where homeless people went when it was raining. As they tried to explain to me the complexity of homelessness in a way I could understand, I asked "well why can't we just buy them a house?"

It wasn't that simple, they said.

Ever since, the moral crisis of homelessness has been incredibly important to me. And while shopping at Smart

& Final last December, I was suddenly overwhelmed with emotion. I remember thinking to myself, *this* is the work I should be doing as a rabbi. It was one thing to teach or preach about how our congregation should be responding to the unsheltered crisis in Santa Barbara, another thing entirely to be physically part of the work of responding to it.

Our congregation has long been working hard to address this issue in our community. For decades, groups of volunteers have worked with Transition House, others have participated in a meal sharing program at Pershing Park, and countless hours of time have been given to other incredibly important causes and organizations in town including PATH, Unity Shoppe, New Beginnings, SB ACT, and more.

When we decided to make this issue a major initiative of CBB, we called the initiative NEFESH (Neighbors Ensur-

ing Food, Equity, Safety, and Housing). This brilliant acronym, created by congregant and Pershing Park leader Kira Weiss, weaves the Hebrew word for 'soul' into the work it describes.

The Torah teaches us that caring for the poor and disenfranchised in the community is of the utmost importance. The Talmud states that when someone is considering converting to Judaism, the first laws you teach that individual are the agricultural laws of leaving the corners of your field for the poor. This work is the "nefesh," the soul of Jewish living.

Since NEFESH launched during the last High Holy Days, we have incorporated new opportunities to engage in the issue of homelessness in the community. Our high school students had a five-week course on causes of homeless-

*Continued on page 22*



Aaron Edelheit speaks at the DignityMoves Grand Opening in June 2022.



Completed Interim Housing Unit from DignityMoves.



# Engaging Through Mitzvah Day

by Florie Wachtenheim



**M**Y HUSBAND ROB AND I joined CBB shortly before the emergence of Covid. We were relatively new to Santa Barbara and dividing our time between Santa Barbara and New York, both a blessing and a challenge! How to develop meaningful roots in a new environment and

empty nesters? What programming and Jewish community would resonate for us?

We visited CBB on more than one occasion, and amongst other things, were very struck by the quality of the time spent with Elizabeth Gaynes and Mariela Socolovsky. The discussions with them were patient and warm, helping us to anticipate a personalized connection.

By way of my own background, volunteering and community leadership are a significant part of my personal portfolio. This helped me to recognize CBB's impressive volunteer efforts in welcoming Rob and I into the community, evidenced by a planned welcome party for all new members, volunteer phone outreach to facilitate our transition—even a hike with a fellow congregant, which provided meaningful one-on-one interaction.

When Covid hit, CBB volunteers shopped at Trader Joe's and Whole Foods for us, as we avoided the stores. I was blown away by the depth and effectiveness of this caring community. So I responded to some outreach to do a little volunteer work of my own. These were not big commitments, but it was gratifying to participate and to be part of a community that looked out for its own.



**Above:** Cantor Mark leads Mitzvah Day speakers and volunteers with a song.

I was surprised when Mariela approached me to participate on the 2021 Mitzvah Day steering committee. I was so new to both Santa Barbara and CBB that I didn't trust I had a lot to contribute to this effort. It can be very hard to start a new, and my strength as a volunteer had typically depended on my long-term community and the networks that had taken years to develop. I had never even attended a CBB Mitzvah Day!

But I said yes.

I said yes because I very much respect the value of the program, doing mitzvot. I said yes because it was an opportunity to connect through committee work to other members of CBB and to share an experience with them. And I stuck with it, despite the fact that I needed a lot of hand-holding to learn the ropes. Mariela helped me understand that it was worthwhile to train new volunteers—a good investment for future years and projects.

And I suspect her outreach to me was not arbitrary. I realized that she took the time to listen to me and to remember what we discussed together as Rob and I were

*“...it was gratifying to participate and to be part of a community that looked out for its own.”*

considering joining CBB. She knew that volunteer leadership had been a big part of my life, and I was grateful that she was meeting me there to help me connect to my new community here in Santa Barbara.

The planning group was awesome; it functioned like many other aspects of CBB, efficiently and thoughtfully. There was great consideration of everyone's time and efforts. I was happy to take the responsibility to serve as a liaison for a few of the Mitzvah Day projects, which gave me a chance to interact with other community organizations, as well as with CBB volunteers, board members and staff.

And Mitzvah Day was glorious (and not just because of the weather)! The instructions to volunteers were clear, so it was easy to know how to function. There was a wonderful sense of spirit as we broke bread together, sang, and then divided our energies into the various projects, each of which would make a difference to the lives of others. I spent most of my morning in the pre-school area, lending a hand with the cookie/thank you card package for local health care workers—hard to walk



**Top to bottom:** Ellen Goldman and Susan LeVine at the Mitzvah Day welcome table; Paula and Ethan Strauss stuff pillows for TBCF; Holly Goldberg with a completed “bedtime kit” for hospitalized children.

away from those chocolate chip cookies and the young bakers! But time was equally well spent by all those leading and attending the 10 different projects.

The instructions for the day included the following encouragement: *This is not just about doing mitzvot, but about strengthening our community ... Remember, this is not just a “let’s get it done” kind of day, but a chance to engage in community and work together. Let’s seize this amazing opportunity!*

Mission accomplished!

Florie Wachtenheim has served in a leadership capacity on many community boards. She and her husband Rob divide their time between New York City and Santa Barbara.

**Mark Your Calendars! Mitzvah Day returns on December 18, 2022!**

# Building Diversity

## with Givat Haviva International School

By Diane Blau and Toby Donner

**G**IVAT HAVIVA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (GHIS) is a 3-year boarding school in the north of Israel. This high school is comprised of equal numbers of Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel, who are educated with a diverse group of international students. This intentional diversity includes students from different world religions and socio-economic backgrounds, other war-torn areas as well as developed and less developed countries.

The educational program is grounded in strong academics through the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program. GHIS is committed to offering full scholarships to potential young leaders from challenging backgrounds, some who would never otherwise have such an educational opportunity.

With an exceptional administration, faculty and staff, the GHIS community becomes one of trust and intimacy. GHIS students are guided to understand each other's experiences, overcome stereotypes, and appreciate that they can dialogue despite their differences. This affords all students the unique opportunity to become leaders/ambassadors and global "change agents".

Hearing about the GHIS community from Nurit Gery GHIS Executive Director and discovering the impressive transformation of its students led CBB to select GHIS as one of its Tikkun Olam projects this year.

The GHIS students have changed CBB congregants. The members of CBB who have fallen in love with and been so inspired by them. Meet some GHIS students in the portraits that follow.



**Batel, 11th Grade**

Batel grew up in Netanya to parents who were immigrants from Ethiopia. Through many life difficulties,

the family learned to minimize their hopes and personal desires. However, Batel was brought up with the narrative that her parents had suffered so she and her brother could have a better life.

In her early teens, Batel dreamed of an international education. When she heard about GHIS, she knew there was no money for fees and recognized that her English came only from television. Despite her trepidation, Batel applied and after a rigorous application process, was accepted.

The first month of GHIS was difficult. But slowly, Batel understood that she had joined a community that was exceptionally supportive and would guide her to reach her potential. Today she has attained goals beyond her imagination both academically and socially. She looks to a future where she can make a difference and become an ambassador for others from impoverished beginnings so that they too can realize their dream. ■





**Teena, 12th Grade**

From a young age, Teena felt like her life was predetermined. She grew up in Efrat (in the West Bank) in an Orthodox household and attended a girls only religious school. Her family was deeply impacted by a terrorist attack her father experienced. All of this could have steered Teena to extremist activities. Instead she chose to see the world in a different light. It opened doors to more opportunities like GHIS.

Being at GHIS challenged Teena's identity but ultimately gave her greater clarity. It has been a life changing experience for Teena to live with Arabs and internationals. GHIS offered Teena the chance to appreciate the stories of those she was taught to hate.

Teena has been accepted to a prestigious Gap Year program with the Jewish Agency in Madrid—a position that she was able to apply for after learning Spanish at GHIS. Following this, she will be in the Intelligence Division for her national service. This reflects the impact GHIS has made on her life. ■



**Davit, 11th Grade**

Davit is from Armenia, growing up in an underprivileged family in one of the poorest countries in the world. He lost his father at age six and was raised by his mother.

Davit is mature beyond his 16 years and demonstrates leadership at every opportunity. Davit sensitively

directed a unique event at GHIS: The GHIS Commemoration of Loss Ceremony where members of the community mark painful events in their national history. Student-led, this event fosters respect and appreciation of the pain of all students, even when they are on different sides of the conflict. This experience gave Davit the confidence to lead another new event to GHIS devoted to the Armenian genocide.

One of Davit's closest friends is from Turkey. They both realize that such a friendship would have been unthinkable before living and studying together at GHIS.

Davit has always been fascinated by Israel, a small country in a complicated region, much like his own. Davit recognizes that GHIS has changed his life. He feels fortunate to have been granted a scholarship affording him the education and opportunities that would otherwise been unreachable. ■



**Meera (10th grade) & Jana (12th grade)**

These sisters come from Turan—an Arab town which suffers from ongoing violence between dominant

families and intense gang brutality. Educational opportunities are few and many families who want more for their children seek options outside of the village.

Jana was the trailblazer in her family. She loved learning and was supported by her parents to break the mold and join GHIS. Now in

12th grade, Jana is a star pupil and encourages other aspirational girls from Turan to apply. Meera, with her sister's encouragement joined the new 10th grade class at GHIS.

At first Meera was overwhelmed with this completely new environment - learning and living with Jews and internationals. But she soon understood the opportunities that GHIS offered and is now thriving. Meera was elected by her peers to serve on the GHIS Student Leadership Council.

Both Jana and Meera require full scholarships to attend GHIS. Hopefully, the opportunity of joining this unique community will ultimately impact Turan, as more young people from this troubled place learn the skills of mediation and conflict resolution. ■

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*It is no surprise that CBB congregants have become enthusiastic supporters of GHIS. This is reflected in financial donations, much needed funding for student scholarships and the online provision of English tutoring and assistance with university applications with selected students.*

*Contributions can be made through CBB: Please indicate specifically that you wish your funds to be donated to GHIS.*

*Diane Blau (dblauphd@gmail.com) and Toby Donner are Volunteer Coordinators for the CBB-GHIS collaboration.*



*Diane Blau*



*Toby Donner*



# Jewish Education is Growing More Than Ever at CBB

Story and photos by Jen Lewis

## Beit HaYeladim (BHY) Update

**FOR THE FIRST TIME** in many years, the Beit HaYeladim (BHY) preschool is full! Filled with sweet, adorable children and amazing, invested families who want to offer their children a strong Jewish identity in Jewish community. With 6 classrooms, 13 loving, dedicated teachers, and 72 children, we are bursting at the seams.

For the past couple of years, a primary role of our facility has been to offer a safe bubble of 'normal' to families with young children, in the midst of pandemic chaos. Our protocols were strict and our policies set up to protect our unvaccinated and very precious population. In doing so, we have made changes that have proven to serve our children better than before and we have the pandemic to

thank for some new systems that offer the best education possible for our kids.

First, we moved our entire program outdoors. Though we still use our classrooms for some play, circle times, nap and for occasional meals indoors, we have become masters of setting up for environmental experiences.

We are blessed to have a campus that lends itself to outdoor learning, play and exploration—creeks running through our backyard, wild oaks and grassy lawns, natural climbing areas, 'wildlife' which show themselves on occasion (snakes, snails, worms, bunnies, birds and spiders), gardens of flowers and plants, wood stump areas to gather for a story, shaded tables for crafts and discussion, sandboxes and tables for sensory exploration, and an easy access, private trail to Tucker's Grove.

Where outdoors used to be primarily a time for recess and burning energy, now we use the outdoors for everything we do. The kids are at home there. The mess is welcome there. The music sounds better there. Stories are more interesting

with the trees rustling in the background. We develop more distance and independence while wandering there. We use our bodies and muscles more vigorously there. It is a natural way to grow and be.

Next, we bring children into the classroom in a new way. With the pandemic, we began a system of drop off in the driveway that has benefited parents, teachers and kids. Parents are able to drop off more quickly and get to work and other obligations more easily.

Teachers are able to give all their attention to the arriving children, welcoming them with intention and helping them find activities and friends with which to engage right away, promoting less transitional distress for the kids who have difficulty with separation. The kids begin their day with a predictable routine and the ability to get directly to the fun with few disruptions and a lot of enthusiasm.

In the past year, we have also turned our focus to our synagogue mission—to create a vibrant, inclusive house of living Judaism. Our teachers learn about each upcoming Jewish holiday—the story, the music, the value, the foods - so that they can create a traditional (and not-so-traditional) excite-



ment around each festival. We create crafts, learn songs, cook foods, share recipes and act out stories to help our littlest scholars learn about Judaism. Even our non-Jewish students engage in these meaningful holiday rituals and celebrations.

We also give attention to Jewish values—being kind to our friends, family and teachers, caring for the poor by giving tzedakah on Shabbat, appreciating the differences between ourselves and others, helping those who need our help—even as simply as lifting a friend who has fallen down.

Really, these are human values, as much as they are Jewish ones, but we are working to help the kids appreciate their Jewish identity as an opportunity for tikkun olam, repairing the world, and filling their lives with mitzvot.

This year, we introduced a new program, Mishpacha & Me, for parents and babies from birth to 18 months. This weekly cohort creates opportunities for Jewish parents to form friendships with each other. Jewish parents have a lot to talk about.

In addition to the usual overwhelming aspects of parenting (feeding, sleep-

ing, and new responsibilities), Jewish parents have to figure out what role Judaism will play in their day to day parenting style or philosophy. This group is a great place to find support and have first friends with similar background and interests and same age babies. Many of our M&M families will be entering BHY in the summer-time, too, with a headstart on building friendships.

One of the challenges that BHY faces is the inability to accept all of the families who want to enroll. Preschool closures during Covid, (therefore a high demand for childcare), the shortage of available teachers in the workforce and the growing positive reputation of BHY has created a spike of interest in our preschool.

This past year, we grew quickly. In the blink of an eye, we were at capacity. Our tours continued and our waitlist doubled, then tripled rapidly. In January 2022, we had nearly 70 families on the waitlist and only 22 spaces to fill for the coming school year, beginning in July 2022. Even our own Rabbi Brenner has been put 'on hold' until July, when his 2-month-old daughter, Liana, gets a space at BHY.



Our policies for enrollment are changing rapidly, as well. In order to manage the high demand, only Temple members and families who already have children enrolled in BHY will be able to add to our waitlist. This does not guarantee a spot, but gives priority to the community who currently support BHY with their ongoing contributions.

*Continued on next page*



**Opposite:** Audrey Kupperman, Etta Pondel and Na'ama Kolvin; **Top right:** Bo Drossel, Snail Whisperer. **Above (L-R):** BHY students prepare for the Purim Play; Helen Curhan helps kids discover science.



## Jewish Learning Program (K-12) Update

**BHY**, the home of our youngest congregants, often feels like the heart of our congregation. After all, without this newest generation of Jews, our faith would come to an abrupt end. But, it can't stop there, which makes Jewish Learning Programs of CBB the logical and critical next step for graduates of BHY.

During their time in preschool, kids experience Judaism as part of the majority. Almost EVERYONE they know is Jewish and celebrating Judaism is as common as eating challah on Fridays.

It's all too soon, in kindergarten, when these kids and their families, right away find themselves the minority in their daily lives. Jews across Santa Barbara are spread far and wide and it is only at JLP where kids can find themselves immersed in Jewish friendships and learning, feeling 'ordinary' about being Jewish, on a weekly basis. It is at **JLP**, where we've created programs where Jewish kids can be proudly Jewish and learn the history and rituals of our religion and faith in a way that hopefully feels "ordinary."

JLP offers Netivot for our K-6th grade students, in which our teachers build relationships with their students each Sunday and through an emphasis on community, help the kids develop friendships and close relationships with each other, as well. It is only in this community of love and friendship, that kids will be willing to learn about Judaism.

Each grade dives deeply into Torah stories through experiential learning—still trying to be outdoors as often as possible and learning Torah through projects and meaningful, relevant experiences. We work to make Jewish Learning "more like camp" and though we know that we can't teach kids all there is to learn about Torah during one morning per week, we strive to give them a love of learning and a desire to come to temple because it's fun! On the heels of this isolating pandemic, we are eager to come together more than ever!

Our Gesher program for 7th and 8th grades is aimed at pre- and post B'mitzvah students as they come of age in the Jewish community. It is at this turning point that we have an opportunity to draw them in or lose them to other interests and priorities.

The milestone of B'mitzvah is an exciting accomplishment, and we work to keep our eye on the other side, too, welcoming the kids into the adult community and trying to keep them involved in ways that call to their kindness and passions. This is the time when kids begin to discover a more personal Jewish identity and wonder, "How do I want to be Jewish?"

Our Mechina program, for high school students (9th-12th grades), holds many opportunities to explore Jewish living and learning. They have elective units to discover Jewish interests such as history, Hebrew, art, cooking, music, games and

**Top to bottom:** Jackie Thompson makes hamentashen; Junior Shabbat art poster; JLP Gimel Class works on Mt. Sinai Project.

*Continued on page 22*

# A SBORTY Update

by Sarah Dent



**W**HEN I WAS IN EIGHTH GRADE, I remember how excited I was to someday receive the event fliers passed out to the ninth graders at the end of religious school classes, and how jealous I was of the exciting events which they had access to as high schoolers.

I knew that I wanted to be involved in SBORTY even in seventh grade; now, as I graduate from high school, I am so proud of the ways in which my involvement has helped me grow, and hopefully, helped the organization too.

SBORTY (the Santa Barbara Organization of Reform Temple Youth) is the high school youth group based at CBB. A teen-led board, including committees for outreach, social action, and event planning, is aided by advisor Mira Brynjegard-Bialik in planning and carrying out events open to all Jewish high school students once or twice per month. These events alternate in focus between lighthearted outings and activities, and social action projects.

Running a youth group during a pandemic was difficult. Most teens were not eager to attend more Zoom meetings, and it was extremely challenging to cultivate the feeling of community and togetherness that attract people to SBORTY. Our goal of helping Jewish teens build friendships was definitely strained during this time, and maintaining participation became our primary struggle.

The pandemic definitely influenced my mindset as I prepared to lead SBORTY this year; initially, I was so focused on planning fun events and recruiting as many people as possible that I forgot to actually have fun or make friends. Eventually, though, as I spent quality time with a friend at the Hanukkah Party and watched others do the same, I remembered to enjoy SBORTY again.



**Above (T-B):** SBORTY members doing Earth Day crafts; creating silk banners during a Middle Eastern Culture Event; and in front of the Arlington Theater during Earth Day.

For me, SBORTY became a way to spend more time with friends from school who I knew had Jewish backgrounds but hadn't previously been engaged in Judaism. It also gave me an opportunity to reconnect with friends who went to Netivot or BHY with me, but who no longer regularly spend time at the synagogue.

I was so excited to watch old friends come together this year at our Middle Eastern Culture Event, and even more excited to discover that they were still in contact following the event. Ultimately, these friendships, and the ones I made, were far more rewarding than even painting the silk

*Continued on page 22*



# Introducing CBB's New Co-Presidents

## **Marcy Wimbish**

My life at CBB began 15 years ago when my husband Jon and I came to visit Santa Barbara to decide if it was a place that we could call home. We showed up at CBB Friday night services in our New York "Shabbat clothing" and found the services outdoors with everyone dressed casually. Rabbi Steve immediately approached and welcomed us.

By that evening, we knew we would live in Santa Barbara and that CBB would become an important part of our life here. Both of our children, Tally (23) and Jimmy (21), went through Netivot, participated in B'nai Mitzvot, and continued on through confirmation. I chaired many galas over the years, and in 2019, I joined the Board of Trustees as the VP of Development. Many of our closest friends are people we met at CBB and our lives have been greatly influenced by this community.

## **Nancy Sheldon**

I joined the temple when I moved here from New York with my husband, Mike, in 2001. Our involvement grew when we put our first child, Max (19), into BHY followed by Kate (17), Charlie (16), and Eve (12). I joined the board in the mid-2000s as the preschool trustee and chaired the auctions of several galas. That experience solidified my connection to the community as we met so many of our closest friends during that time. My children have been through Netivot and B'nai Mitzvahs and my littlest will come of age in 2023.

In 2018, Rabbi Steve told me about a project to re-invigorate the campus and I knew this would bring me back as a volunteer. I've been co-chairing the Capital Campaign for Building Dreams for approximately four years and joined the board two years ago. It has been incredibly rewarding and challenging but worth the effort and has brought me back to the congregation in mind, body, and spirit. ■



**Marcy Wimbish (left) and Nancy Sheldon (right).**

*We are excited to take on the challenges of chairing the board together as we have been very good friends since moving to Santa Barbara. Hopefully, in two years we will still be very good friends!*

*We look forward to learning about the inner workings of CBB, tackling challenges and enhancing strengths, and working closely together and with the staff, Clergy, our board (with seven incoming board members), and our diverse congregation.*

*We anticipate the Building Dreams project will move into (and out of) construction over the next two years. There will be challenges, but with them come great opportunities to learn and grow as a community. We will be asked to worship, learn and interact in new ways, and to support each other as we move to our temporary physical space. We hope this project will bring back those that might have stepped away and will invigorate an already thriving congregation.*

*We hope to lead the Board with grace, compassion, optimism, humor, patience, and energy. Please reach out to us and let us know how we are doing and how we can better support you over the next few years.*

—Marcy & Nancy



*Continued from page 7*

on campus during construction. All clergy and nearly all staff, programs, and services will be relocated. While this is temporary and we have much to look forward to when returning to our transformed campus, this is a huge undertaking. The Relocation Team is committed to finding solutions that meets the needs of our congregation. Barring any unanticipated obstacles, we aspire to have our beautiful new home completed 18 months after groundbreaking.

For the pre-school, Jen Lewis and Rabbi Cohen have been diligently consulting with parents to identify and fully understand their concerns and to keep them informed as we get closer to construction. There are focused meetings with preschool parents taking place to plan for what will be an incredibly exciting but admittedly challenging time for the preschool community.

Ray Aronson has been working with Jen Lewis on plans to relocate the playground to the back of the school, closer to the outdoor chapel. Our project manager, Cameron Carey, will be working closely with Jen and Schipper Construction to ensure safe paths of travel during construction, finding ways to minimize the impact of noise and dust, and creating effective communication protocols so that the families are well informed every step of the way.

Everyone working on this project shares the goal of ensuring that this undertaking is designed with great care, detail, beauty, innovation and integrity, and all within specific cost parameters. The aspirations that catalyzed Building Dreams will in time come to life, and we will all be enjoying our magnificently transformed campus. We look forward to sharing the fruits of this labor with you all at the ribbon-cutting! ■

*Judi Koper and Martie Levy are the co-chairs of CBB's Campus Renewal Committee.*

## A Conversation with Mira Brynjegard-Bialik

*To mark her first year at CBB, VOICES talked with our Youth Engagement Coordinator about her background and what she most remembers about a busy year!*



### **What did you study at school? What's your Jewish background?**

My mother is a rabbi, and I've always been heavily invested in my Jewish identity and community as a result. I grew up going to Camp Newman, and even worked there as a counselor and songleader for three years! I went to UCSB to study my first love, marine biology (my office is full of little shark figurines, you'll notice) but I had a professor in college tell me I should figure out what I wanted to be doing with my hands every day that would make me feel fulfilled.

I realized that I wanted to be somewhere where I could work in informal education, the way I'd loved at camp, and when my sister Yael (who teaches 1st-2nd grade at Netivot, as well as the Rosh Hodesh group for 7th-8th girls) brought me to CBB, I fell in love.

### **What are some highlights from the past year, and why were they meaningful to you?**

One of my favorite programs to be a part of this last year was the 1st Annual Parsha Ceremony and Celebration, an event where we presented students with their b-mitzvah dates and everyone got to see where their portion was in the Torah. It was a great way to kick off the b-mitzvah process in a fun, meaningful way, and I can't wait to continue the tradition next year!

Another one of my favorite things I've gotten to do is to sing with the BHY kids when Cantor is away. They are so adorable, so excited to be here, and so happy and friendly! I love it whenever I get to interact with the BHY community.

### **What are you looking forward to over the next year in this job?**

I'm hoping to make even more connections with people! Knowing people's names and having people know who I am is so important to me, and I'm looking forward to what I'll be able to do in my second year to build off what I've already done. I'm also looking forward to a new year of SBORTY, and bringing all the current 8th graders to the events.

—Interview by Paul Zakrzewski

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*Continued from page 11*

ness and poverty, and they sponsored a “welcome-home kit” through PATH, where they had the opportunity to provide for all the needs of an individual moving for the first time into permanent supported housing.

Our new partnership with the NNC on Carrillo has been providing a monthly meal for half a year thus far. Daniel Dunietz of Dank Bowl Kitchen (formerly Buddah Bowls) has provided the hot entrée for the meal this year as part of his restaurant’s efforts to do its part to combat hunger. We are looking to expand our NNC partnership with the Rescue Mission in the coming year.

Our biggest project of the year has centered on DignityMoves, a brand-new organization dedicated to finding innovative ways to house unsheltered individuals. I was first introduced to this initiative by our congregant Aaron Edelmet, who along with other members of the community were rallying support to the idea of creating temporary housing as a stop-gap measure to get people off the streets immediately.

I was truly inspired by the presentation of Aaron and his partners, and knew it was something to bring to CBB. Last December, we hosted Elizabeth Funk, founder of DignityMoves, for a Sunday Morning Live talk, and have followed closely as this project went from dream to reality over the last year. In May, dozens of CBB members volunteers to help put the finishing touches on these units, and the project held its grand opening in June. Our congregation should be proud to have played a small part in getting 33 individuals off the streets.

As NEFESH moves into its second year, we will continue to strengthen the partnerships we have maintained and created over the last year, and look to new

avenues to focus our collective energy. Our partnership with DBK has made me curious to how other restaurants in Santa Barbara might be utilized to provide meals. DignityMoves has called into question what housing and shelter can look like in a community like ours. And the need is only increasing.

When I was six I didn’t understand why this was an issue. Now, I’m even more convinced. It is simple...it just takes all of us. I hope you will take part in increasing the *nefesh* of CBB. ■

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*Continued from page 18*

community service. Confirmation has been rolled into this mixture of opportunities as well as annual trips to New York, Washington DC and other Jewish landmarks, each trip with a unique Jewish educational focus (politics, history, freedom, anti semitism, etc.)

It can be challenging for high school students to carve out time for Jewish connection, but when they do, it’s meaningful. Those who attend find that participation in synagogue life supports their mental wellness by surrounding themselves with a safe group of lifelong friends, supports their physical wellness to step away from their computers and homework for a bit, and supports their spiritual wellness to connect with G-d and their Jewish identity, finding peace in a crazy world at an unpredictable time in history.

By this time of year, it’s a joy for me to spend time with these young adults and be reminded of the work that we do here at CBB, offering children a strong foundation of Jewish roots, a community where they are at home and to which they can always turn, and catch a glimpse of the future—in which I can clearly see that we’re sending a good batch of humans out into the world!

For each of these programs, and for CBB children from ages 18 months to 18 years, we are excited about the upcoming Building Dreams project! This will be a pivotal year, as we launch into creating this new Center for Jewish Learning. I’m hopeful for the generations of children who will learn and grow in this new space—feeling empowered to be proudly Jewish and together. ■

*Jen Lewis is the Director of the Beit HaYeladim Preschool, as well as Director of CBB’s Jewish Learning Program (K-12).*

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*Continued from page 19*

banners (depicting Middle Eastern skylines) that I spent countless hours designing and outlining in preparation for the event.

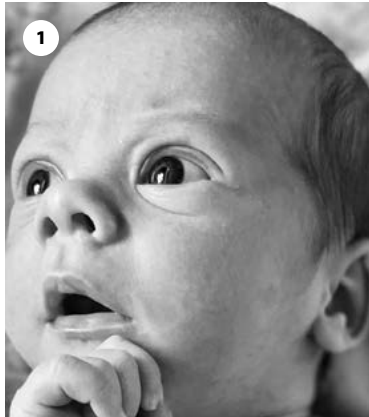
As the year concludes, I feel increasingly confident that SBORTY is on a path toward truly accomplishing its objectives of creating an inclusive avenue for high schoolers to connect to their Judaism and build a community.

I am proud of both myself, the board, and the larger SBORTY community for doing the hard work of showing up to create something genuinely worth being part of, carving out time for Judaism despite the many competing demands for our time, and curating an environment that is successful at creating connections amongst Jewish teens.

Watching everyone laugh with friends at our recent Earth Day event reaffirmed what I already knew—SBORTY isn’t about what we do at events, or even about the blessings we share over challah or spices. Really, it’s about the community we are creating, of teens who are connected to their Judaism through their friendships with one another. ■

*Outgoing SBORTY President Sarah Dent is a graduating senior at Dos Pueblos High School.*

# Mazel Tov! *In Our Lives*



① To Emily and Charlie Race-Newmark on the birth of their daughter, Noa Frieda Race-Newmark, born on April 20, 2022.



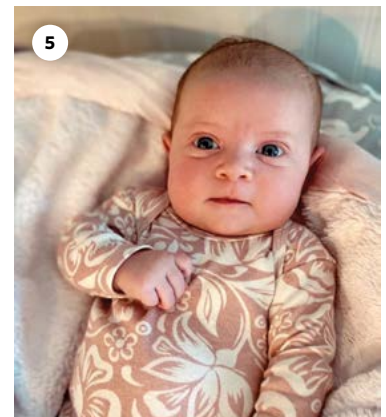
② To Eli and Stephanie Kupperman on the birth of their son, Graham Malcolm Kupperman, born on April 9, 2022.

③ To Naomi Rabe-Sheehey and Rory Sheehey on the birth of their daughter, Claire Olivia Sheehey, born January 19, 2022.



④ To Serena Zahler and Bailey Hochhalter on the birth of their daughter, Shiloh Rose Hochhalter, born on January 7, 2022.

⑤ To Allyson Toscher and Alex Gallop on the birth of their daughter, Allyah Rebecca Gallop, born on December 18, 2021



⑥ To Noa Klein and Itamar Kolvin on the birth of their daughter, Natalie Kolvin, born on January 14, 2022.



To Dana & Gabriel Gordon on the birth of their daughter, Lana Gordon, born on January 1, 2022 (not pictured).

⑦ To Sonia and Jarrod Rifkind and big brother Theo on the birth of Remi Berk Rifkind, born on December 13, 2021.



# Mazel Tov! *In Our Lives*



8

⑧ To Cameron & Jasmine Nelson on the birth of their son, Avi Joseph Nelson, born on December 1, 2021.

⑨ To Brenda and Benjamin Swedlove on the birth of their daughter, Violet Mara Swedlove, born on November 20, 2021.



9



10

⑩ To Kayla Rosen and Andrea Young and older siblings Enea and Silvia on the birth of Luna Esther Young, born on November 13, 2021.



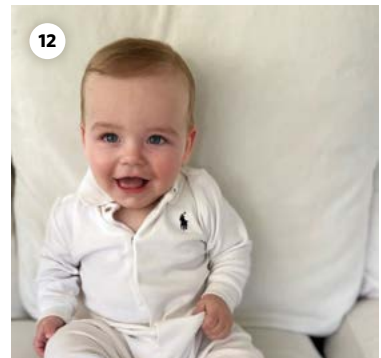
11

⑪ To Tom and Rachel Thornton and siblings Arlo and Hugh on the birth of Leonie Sal Thornton, born on July 13, 2021.

⑫ To Nikki and Zadok Sacks on the birth of their son, Charlie George Sacks, born on September 25, 2021.

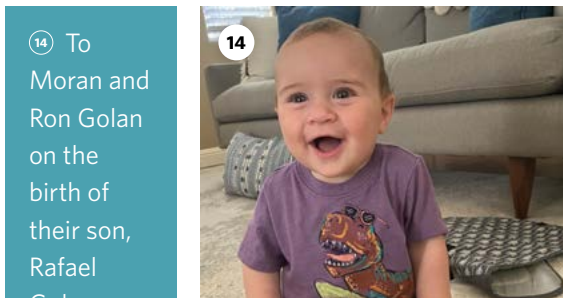


13



12

⑬ To Marc and Amber Escobia and older siblings Aviva and Jackson Shields on the birth of Keanu Koa Jan Escobia, born on September 2, 2021.



14

⑭ To Moran and Ron Golan on the birth of their son, Rafael Golan, born on August 8, 2021.

⑮ To Anne-Claire and Rich Cain and big sister Leah on the birth of Dinah, born on May 24, 2021.



15



16

⑯ To Megan & Calvin Yoskowitz on the birth of their son, Harrison Yoskowitz, born on July 21, 2021.

# May Their Lives Be For a Blessing

**June 2021 to June 2022**

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Leatrice Luria	Elinor Irish ("Maisie") Cohen	Arthur Gerstenfeld
Merle Levy	Ronald Schacher	Frances Rotman
Martha Rosenberg	Richard Hagendorf	Barbara Belkin
Meredith Taylor	Maxine Liptzen Dorot	Rhona Drobis
Sylvia Adler	Lynda Abrams	Paul Selwyn
Jeff Wolff	Candy Hagendorf	Robert Siegan
Yale Coggan	Bruce Corwin	Dorris Feinberg
David Jacoby	Phyllis Ann Rudolph	Eliezar Jehassi
Helen Thayer	Nathaniel Feldman	Melanie Lansing
Herb Zipperstein	Andy Svedlow	Diane Schryer
Mel Marks	Ralph Baxter	Ivan Rowan
Colman Daniel	Lidia Budgor	Paul A. Heimberg
Ruth Hartzman	Aris Demetrios	Stephen David Barkin
Barbara Kaplan	Malcolm Rosenbaum	Elaine Burg
Bruce Rebhun	Eunice Brown	Ruth Palanker
Herb Golub	Jeff Palley	Pamela Treiber
Dennis Levy	David Shor	Dottie Pickering
Cecia Hess	Gloria Levine	Arthur Weinthal
Joyce Lyke	Arnold Shafritz	Irwin Stanford Levin

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



Since our founding in 1927, CBB members have made a promise for tomorrow. We can ALL become members of Children of the Covenant: create a legacy gift for CBB in your estate plan, name CBB as a beneficiary of an IRA or life insurance policy, leave property to CBB or establish a gift annuity; or make an in-lifetime gift to the CBB Endowment. Currently at \$8.5 million, our goal is to reach sustainability at a \$20 million endowment.

Your gift will live and grow, serving our community in perpetuity.

Debbie Hartzman  
Children of the Covenant Chair

Contact Julia George, Director of Development, at [julia@cbbbsb.org](mailto:julia@cbbbsb.org) or (805) 964.7869 x108 to learn more, or to let us know your legacy plans.

**Above, left:** Lee Silverman, Alex Koper, Adele Rosen, Judi Koper, Rick Heimberg, Amy Silverman, Karen Schloss-Heimberg. **Next page, right:** Helene Glassman with Rabbi Steve Cohen.



## Our sincere gratitude to CBB's Children of the Covenant

Anonymous (8)  
Beverly and Richard Abrams  
Ronit and Albert Anolick z"l  
Esther and Robert Baum  
Barbara and Yoav Ben-Horin  
Judy and Burt Bernstein  
Helga R. Carden  
Wilma z"l and Burt Chortkoff  
Rhoda and Jesse Colman  
Lilyan Cuttler  
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# Leadership Giving

The oldest and largest Jewish institution in Santa Barbara, CBB is dedicated to fostering a warm, inclusive, and vibrant Jewish community. Our doors remain open to all those seeking a home for Jewish education, culture and values. We are grateful to those who make significant financial contributions in addition to membership in order to provide a solid operating foundation for CBB. Additionally, many gifts this year support our Building Dreams project. With this generous support, we maintain our commitment to being open and inclusive, welcoming all and providing extra assistance for those in need.

## **Visionary \$100,000+**

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*Listing reflects all tax deductible contributions in previous or current membership year, as of June 10, 2022.*

# Giving to CBB keeps us strong!

[cbbsb.org/give](https://cbbsb.org/give)

Your donation can be made in **honor, memory, or celebration** of someone you love, and we will send a beautiful CBB Tribute Card to commemorate the gift. While we welcome gifts to **CBB's General Fund** or **CBB Endowment**, you can also direct your support to any of our **special funds**:

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## **CBB Clergy**

Rabbi Cohen's Discretionary Fund  
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Neighbors Ensuring Food, Equity, Safety, and Housing (NEFESH)  
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Judy Meisel Preschool Scholarship Fund  
Friedman Education Fund (Jewish Learning Programs)

Make your gift by visiting [cbbsb.org/give](https://cbbsb.org/give) or call the CBB office at (805) 964-7869. Donations can also be made with gifts of appreciated stock, as an IRA distribution, or from a donor advised fund.



## Introducing CBB's New Director of Development

*By Julia George*

**I**N LATE AUGUST OF 2020, I held my son's hand as we walked up to the gate at Beit HaYeladim Preschool (BHY). Because of COVID, I couldn't enter, but I knew he would be in good hands. A year prior, when we moved to Santa Barbara, our family had toured BHY but ultimately selected another program. As I watched him walk in, I let out a sigh of relief because we had found our way home to BHY.

Soon after, I was excited to step in as the Fundraising Chair for BHY's Parent Association. Fundraising has been my profession for over 15 years, and I was thrilled to support to BHY in this way. I've held staff and volunteer roles at RAINN, Penn State University, TSC Alliance, and other organizations throughout Orange County.

Now, in my new role as CBB's Director of Development, I am eager to foster a culture of philanthropy in our incredible community. I thank you all in advance for trusting me to lead such an important aspect of CBB's past, present, and future.

Lastly, a bit about me—I grew up in Laguna Beach and Williamsburg, Virginia. I went on to earn a BA in Fine Arts from the College of William & Mary. After returning to Orange County, I met my husband Rich (a UCSB alum), and eventually ended up back on the east coast while he pursued his PhD in archaeology at Penn State. Our son, Lazar, who will graduate from BHY in June, was born during our time in Pennsylvania.

Now that you know a little about me, I'm looking forward to getting to know you. Please contact me at [julia@cbbsb.org](mailto:julia@cbbsb.org) or ext. 108. ■



# VOICES

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**VOICES** is a publication offered  
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## Congregation B'nai B'rith

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for helping us fulfill our community commitment to  
ensuring that we welcome every preschooler, child, teen,  
and adult who wants to learn and live a Jewish life.

Now more than ever, this funding ensures that our CBB  
Jewish educational community remains accessible to all  
families and individuals—prior to, during and beyond the  
pandemic.



Top: Lisa Raphael, Monica Steiner, Marcy Wimbish and Julia  
George; Middle, left: Sheryl & Winton Berci; right: Diane and  
Steve Zipperstein; Bottom: Allison & Wesley McRay.

CONGREGATION B'NAI B'RITH

# *High Holy Days*

**Saturday, September 17**

Selichot

**Sunday, September 25**

Erev Rosh Hashanah

**Monday, September 26**

Rosh Hashanah

**Tuesday, October 4**

Erev Yom Kippur

**Wednesday, October 5**

Yom Kippur

*We look forward to seeing you in person at Congregation  
B'nai B'rith for the upcoming High Holy Days.*

## **OUR MISSION**

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



**Congregation B'nai B'rith**

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