



Table of Contents

Focus: Journeys Home

3

New Members

4

The Journey Home

By Rabbi Steve Cohen

6

To the Future Generation of CBB

By Marcy Wimbish and Nancy Sheldon

7

The Sweetest Sounds

By Cantor Mark Childs

8

An Update on the Building Dreams Project

By Judi Koper and Martie Levy

10

A Healing Visit for Eight Kfar Aza "Sisters"

By Rabbi Belle Michael, Lisa Raphael, Kamila Storr, Li-at Rathbun

11

Announcing CBB's New Major Tikkun Olam Initiative

By Lynn Altschul

12

Why I Volunteer for CBB's Caring Community

By Jay Farbman

13

When Challah Goes Wrong, Judaism Comes Out Right

By Rabbi Daniel Brenner

14

How Young Families Like Mine Engage with CBB

By Serena Zahler

15

New LGBTQ+ Group Launches

By Philip Prinz

15

Engaging Our Community One Member at a Time

By Laura Habecker

16

Student Reflections on Judaism

Collected by Jen Lewis

18

Linda Kaufman Looks Back on 20 Years at CBB

By Mimi Dent

19

Trip Connects CBB Teens to Jewish Philadelphia

By Fallyn Lee

20

Florence Melton Award Presented to Melton School's

By Judy Karin

23

Mazal Tov!

25

May Their Lives Be for a Blessing

26

Children of the Covenant

28

Leadership Giving

29

Why Supporting Building Dreams Is Important to Me

By Lauren Katz

31

L'dor V'dor Gala

Cover: Rabbi Steve Cohen hikes with Lazar George. Photo by Julia George.

We Welcome Our New Members

June 2023 to June 2024

Vicky Ballmes	Seth & Monica Kaplan	Levi Durrer
Leah Savage & Joseph McDaniel	Ran & Jenna Shahak	Glenn & Susanne Lerner
David Bernstein & Candy Lauck	Matthew & Jennifer Reagor	Paul Gertler
Alexander & Jessica Truitt	Steven & Hannah Blumenfeld	Adina Roskies & Colin Allen
Josh & Rebecca Cerf	Anthony & Jackie Blue	Jason & Rose Levy
Mark Lomedico & Rivka Ihejirika-Lomedico	Sarah Mantell & Joel Pion	Allegra Geller-Kudrow & Daniel Kudrow
Michael Nechemia & Heather Guo	Elizabeth Holohan & Seth Althausen	Alicia Beckett & Dennis Lyandres
Scott & Hillary Weintraub	Bonnie Passy	Tal Rabinowitz & Alec Sulkin
Martina & Nathan Albert	Allan Stewart & Rori Reber	Sandra Grasso-Boyd
Helen Goldengate	David & Keila Cohen	Amy & Steve Colton
Edna Moses	Mark Goldman & Emily Primack	Sam Heller & Lorren Butterwick
Elias Isaacson & Jessie Wender	Laini Millar Melnick	Dana Hoffenberg
Benjamin Strosberg & Madeline Sachs	Brian Dell & Lisa Silverstone	Lana Smith-Hale & Daniel Hale
Mark Cohen & Marcela Carmona	Liisa & Andrew Primack	Joshua & Greta Sharon
David Fradkin & Joan Robb-Fradkin	Richard & Kayla Newhouse	Mark Osiel
Bradlee & Rachael Van Pelt	Jonathan Gottlieb	Linley & Carlyne Berger
Melissa Wald & Mike Zucker	Gardner & Jennifer Wilkenfeld	Mick & Mary Meiselman
Mark & Amanda Gordon Deutsch	Jessica & Michael Lightfoot	Ronit & Benjamin Rose
Devora Green	Josh Levine	Cynthia & Payam Abrishami
Jordan Justice & Christine Ray	Melissa & Salvador Avila	Nancy Fahn
	Arnon Blau	Rachel Kepnes

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 Laura Habecker, Membership Director, at laura@cbbsb.org or 805.964.7869 x104

Already a member?

You can renew your membership online at cbbsb.org/current-members



Above: Rabbi Steve Cohen speaks at the L'dor V'dor Gala on March 16, 2024.

The Journey Home

By Rabbi Steve Cohen

This summer marks twenty years since I began serving as Rabbi of our congregation.

SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED since. So many babies have grown into adulthood. So many friends have died. We've made so much music. Wept so many tears. Learned so much Torah. Played together, built together, hiked together, prayed together, cooked together, eaten together, raised our children together and worked to repair this fractured world, together.

I remember that in my first months at CBB, whenever anyone asked how I was feeling, I would answer immediately "energized!" The job was incredibly demanding, and I was running all the time, but I rarely felt tired.

Now that my retirement is in sight, it's a bit like coming to the end of a trek in the mountains. I feel bone-tired but happy, proud and grateful. It has been a wonderful journey.

With one year to go, I am savoring the anticipation of what comes next. I don't mind confessing that I sometimes find myself humming a favorite song from Fiddler on the Roof: *"If I were rich, I'd have the time that I lack to sit in the synagogue and pray; And maybe have a seat by the Eastern wall; And I'd discuss the holy books with the learned men, several hours every day; And that would be the sweetest thing of all."*

Obviously, our community is blessed also with learned women, and I look forward to many hours after my retirement discussing our holy books with our learned women and men.

And to hours in the Judy Meisel Kitchen, cooking together with friends, and to painting and sculpting, singing and praying. To long Shabbat afternoons with friends and a glass of wine, discussing poetry together, or a short story, or just sitting quietly and watching the mountains, and the oak trees, and listening to the wind, or to a member of our community singing and playing her guitar.

With one year to go, I am beginning to realize the things that I will miss. The pressure I feel to find the right words to speak when our community, or our nation, or our world are in crisis.

What words can suffice after the mountains behind our city come tumbling down in a debris flow? What words make any sense when our world is brought to its knees by a worldwide pandemic? Or when our community comes together after a horrific synagogue shooting? I will miss that burden, and the deep gratitude I feel when the words somehow rise up out of the silence.

I will miss the thrill of overhearing the conversation of a kindergartner behind me on the trail, on a class hike, declaring to his friend, "this is my best day, ever!" Or of a first grader confiding to me "I love these God stories." I will miss the sacred flow of love moving through the living room of a family sitting shiva, singing our prayers in their own home, surrounded by friends who have come to offer that family the comfort of tradition and faith.

I know for certain that I will miss the awesome moment at the end of the long day of Yom Kippur, standing before the ark, with the voices of choir and congregation filling the vast sanctuary and breaking my aching heart open.

In this last year before I retire, I look forward to returning with all of you to our CBB campus on San Antonio Creek Road.



Rabbi Cohen on a Sunday morning hike with JLP's Kindergarten class in 2023.

After two years out of the building during the pandemic, and then another two years of construction, it has felt at times like we were doomed to be "wandering Jews" forever.

Now our transformed building is coming into full view and we are beginning to see the realization of our dreams. I can't stop looking, and find any excuse I can to drive over and watch the construction.

I can't wait for all of the many homecomings in the approaching year. The return of Shabbat services to the Girsh-Hochman Sanctuary. The return of Sunday Morning Live and the Best Darn Breakfast. The return of our Netivot Jewish Learning Program to our magnificent new Center for Jewish Learning. The return of our BHY preschoolers to their beautiful new playground.

Sometimes we need to leave home for a while, to wander and to feel dislocated, in order to attain the powerful experience of coming home. This is what I look forward to most in the year ahead: I look forward to coming home. ■

Save the Date!

**We will be celebrating Rabbi Cohen
and his retirement with a weekend of events
— May 2 thru May 4, 2025 —**

*A full weekend enjoying our new CBB campus including
Friday night and Saturday morning services, a day of
learning and music, visiting speakers, and a special gala
on Sunday, May 4th. Stay tuned for details!*

Letter From CBB's Co-Presidents

To the *Future* Generation of CBB

By Nancy Sheldon and Marcy Wimbish

During the demolition stage of our Building Dreams project, our contractor made a wonderful discovery—a time capsule left in 1969, the year our campus was first dedicated.

Inside the copper box (see photo) we discovered some wonderful items, including memorabilia, photos from our groundbreaking, audio recordings, and most notably for us, a letter addressed to the “President to the Congregation,” written by then-President Dr. Robert Hartzman.

Inspired by Robert's example, we decided to write our own letter to the future generation—an effort we would love to see repeated down the generations.



Nancy Sheldon



Marcy Wimbish

AS CO-PRESIDENTS

of this vibrant 800+ family member congregation, we write to you from a period of resilience and growth. As you

read this letter, we hope you feel a connection to us, your ancestors, and understand the depth of our commitment to preserving our community's strength for generations to come.

The CBB community is thriving, even as the larger Jewish community is in crisis. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, political polarization, and turbulent conflict between Israel and Hamas following the attack of Oct 7, 2023, our community has been challenged and, we are happy to report, remains strongly united.



COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization in March 2020 and it completely upended the world. The economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic was devastating.

Our temple shut its doors and we moved to on-line services and programs, starting with a bumpy, first-ever Passover seder on Zoom. We had no idea how bad it was going to get or when we would be able to meet in person again. Our elderly were isolated at home or nursing facilities while college students returned from campus, taking classes from childhood homes.

Parents of young children worked from home while also juggling childcare and schooling. Zoom became an integral part of our daily lives, and would remain so for more than one year. We even paused our efforts to rebuild our campus and were uncertain if and when we could pursue Building our Dreams.

That said, this challenging chapter showed us that even when physically distant, we are united.

The pandemic coincided with a turbulent time in our history. The political landscape grew increasingly polarized, with divisions deepening across the country. Social media played a significant role in heightening these divisions, amplifying political tensions and stark differences in viewpoints that reflected broader societal shifts and challenges.

Then, on Oct 7th, Hamas attacked Israel, and we saw our world upended in ways we never could have imagined.

Israel retaliated and the war in Gaza unfolded, unleashing a tremendous wave of antisemitism that rocked our world, particularly on college campuses which quickly became the epicenter. Anti-Zionist protests, sometimes violent, and often very antisemitic disrupted college campuses across the country, making Jewish students feel unsafe.

This unprecedented rise in antisemitism reached historic levels—soaring 140% in 2023, according to the Anti-Defamation League. Israel's right to exist was strongly contested, fueling blatant antisemitism from college professors to mainstream media. It felt like “Never Again Is Now.”

Despite this upheaval, CBB remained resilient, and recommitted to educating future generations about Jewish history, values, and the importance of tolerance and understanding.

Through uncertainty and turbulence, our CBB community remains optimistic,

Continued on page 21



Above: A 1969 time capsule containing CBB memorabilia was discovered last year during construction.



The Sweetest Sounds

By Cantor Mark Childs

ONCE A WEEK I enjoy visiting the CBB construction site to appreciate the progress being made. I let my imagination populate the unfinished offices, classrooms, and outdoor spaces with the sounds and sights of “living Judaism”. There are so many potential delights bubbling up as these spaces are taking shape.

I’m not alone. There are many in our congregation that are dreaming up creative input into how best to maximize the potential that is before us. But I personally have my focus on the musical potential.

My favorite space for music is our Girsh-Hochman sanctuary, which will be relatively untouched by the construction. Its warm acoustics and intimate, versatile setting make it an ideal space for not only our worship services, but classical music recitals and vocal performances.

The sanctuary will be a favorite space for Santa Barbara audiences hungry to hear Jewish themed music presented by local and visiting artists. A new Zemer Music Festival, Shira choral concert, violin and piano recital, a college *a capella* singing group, the next SoulAviv reunion concert will each have their moments in the glow of our sanctuary’s Eternal Light.

The Temple Band and Shir Hallelujah will ring the room with joyful noise once again, taking advantage of the ability to create seating that allows us to hear each other’s voices in song.

Speaking of voices, over the past year our Shir Chadash Adult choir has grown unprecedentedly large in numbers, enabling them to perform repertoire that was previously out of reach. (Our monthly Shir Chadash adult choir performances are made possible by support from Daniel & Mandy Hochman). I am hearing the rich 19th century synagogue harmonies of Lewandowski, Janowski, and Naumburg alongside newly commissioned liturgical settings by Remstein, Aronson, and Raede.

It’s exciting to ponder the possibilities and I cannot wait to hear these voices resonating in our sanctuary. If you have some choral music background and can read music I’d love to have you join us.

The Social Hall, now without a stage, will host movies and lectures, bands and performances. We’ll make use of a portable platform that can be oriented in any direction.

Continued on page 21

An Update on the Building Dreams Project

By Judi Koper and Martie Levy, Committee Co-Chairs



Judi Koper



Martie Levy

OUR BUILDING DREAMS PROJECT is now more than halfway complete! We hope you have been following the progress of our

project via our email updates and on the CBB website.

Now, one can walk into the beautiful addition to our Sanctuary Building and see the offices, the new conference room and visualize the Leadership Hub alive with activity. Our new Central Plaza and outdoor classrooms are taking shape.

All the rooms in our reimagined Center for Jewish Learning are framed and you can almost hear the laughter of children and adults as they cook together in our new Teaching Kitchen.

While the rain has had an impact on our schedule, we will begin to move back into our campus by the end of the year. We are also pleased to report that our project remains on budget and want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has joined us in contributing to the Building Dreams Campaign.

Just as it has taken our entire congregation to fulfill our “Dream for the Future” for our temple, it has taken a team of highly talented professionals working together to construct our re-envisioned campus.

We want to share with you the stories of two of the local companies working on our project who have a special connection to our community and a little bit about some of the people with whom we are privileged to work:

Schipper Construction

Frank Schipper Construction Company, was established in 1982. If you have been to the Granada, Museum of Natural History, the SB Zoo, Music Academy of the West, SB Hillel, the Marjorie Luke Theater, or nearly any school in Santa Barbara, to just name a few, you have been in a project constructed by Schipper.

Frank was born in the Netherlands. During World War II, his parents, at great risk to themselves and their three children, sheltered and protected a neighboring Jewish family for two years in their home. They stayed in contact with this family, and in February 2000, at CBB, the Schipper family was recognized as Righteous Gentiles by Yad Vashem.

Today the company is employee-owned. **Shawn Johnson**, our Project Superintendent, has worked in the construction field for 36 years, the last 25 of those in Santa Barbara. Shawn was born and raised in Lompoc.



Tyler Hasspacher is a newcomer to Santa Barbara having relocated three years ago from North Carolina after completing school in construction management. What is striking about Shawn and Tyler is their pride in their work and their dedication to delivering to CBB a project that will fulfill our

dreams and last for many generations.

They work as a team to herd over 30 subcontractors, get County Inspectors to the site as well as ensure quality work, all so that our project is completed on time and on budget.

One more thing we can all thank Shawn and Tyler for has been their sensitivity to the needs of our pre-school children, their parents and all BHY staff. They work closely with the entire



Opposite page: Shawn Johnson (left) and Tyler Hasspacher on site at CBB (photo by Jon Greenleaf). **Above:** Rabbi Steve Cohen shows off the construction progress of CBB's new Center for Jewish Learning, to open in spring 2025. **Right:** The Center for Jewish Learning under construction (photo by Jon Greenleaf).

CBB team to keep everyone informed on what is and will be happening on the site and pay close attention to the safety of our children.

Architectural Millwork

Architectural Millwork was started by **Ron Matthews** and has provided beautifully customized cabinetry and doors in Santa Barbara since 1969. **Joe Matthews**, Ron's son, and his team of skilled craftsmen are providing the new doors in the Library/Sacred Space in the Center for Jewish Learning. This is a challenging job as nearly all the doors are curved pocket doors. Just recently Joe shared with us why the CBB project is important to him.

His family lived across the street from Harold and Hester Schoen. Harold was Viola Girsh's brother and great uncle to Daniel Hochman. As relayed by Joe, he has very fond memories of spending many hours of his childhood at the Schoen's home. His dad, Ron, was a skilled carpenter but had no formal business training.

In 1969, Harold Schoen, who was a retired professor of economics at UCSB, worked with Ron to help him set up his company and continued as his friend and business mentor for many years. In Joe's own words:

"I have many warm memories of time spent with Harold and Hester throughout my childhood and young adulthood. Anything that we can do to help is in memory of these wonderful people."

These stories remind us how fortunate we are to be part of such a special community. L'dor V'dor. We remember and honor those from our past who made our present possible as we work to build a wonderful future for our next generations. ■



Capital Campaign Update

AT THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IN JUNE, a generous matching gift challenge from Sara Miller McCune, Building Dreams Honorary Capital Campaign Co-Chair, was announced. Sara will match all Building Dreams gifts of \$18 or more, up to \$500,000, helping us reach the campaign goal! Visit cbbsb.org/give to make your gift.

To ensure you're included on the Building Dreams donor wall, please make your gift of \$18 or more by September 1, 2024. No amounts will be listed, just the names of all the donors to this monumental effort.

If you've already made your gift, thank you! Please visit cbbsb.org/capital-campaign to review the online donor listing as this will be used to build the physical donor wall on campus. If you see any issue with how your name is listed, please contact Julia George at julia@cbbsb.org. ■

A Healing Visit for Eight Kfar Aza "Sisters"

In early February 2024, we welcomed eight remarkable women from Kibbutz Kfar Aza—one of the most profound experiences we've had as a community since the tragic events of Oct. 7th.

*With help of many, including co-organizers **Lisa Raphael**, **Kamila Storr** and **Li-At Rathbun**, our visitors spent a week in Santa Barbara as a "breather" from the horrific trauma they'd experienced.*

*Each of the visitors—who included **Ruth Joffe**, **Etti Koren**, **Osnat Kraus**, **Sigal Caspi**, **Madlen Mazuz (Bing)**, **Elinor Bitton Bariach**, **Michal Rottenberg**, and **Yifat Zezak Dromi**—was matched with a "sister" from CBB.*

*The visit was made possible through the vision and dedication of **Rabbi Belle Michael**, who, in the aftermath of October 7, felt called to forge direct connections with the people of Israel.*

"I felt in my gut that I had to reach out to people who were affected and tell them that they were not alone—that even though we were thousands of miles away, we cared about them and felt their pain," says Rabbi Michael.



SOON AFTER OCT. 7TH I was put in touch with Elinor Bitton Bariach through the friend of a friend. During the next two months we texted sporadically as she was going through a lot. Elinor was in charge of 62 funerals and shivas, and also taking care of her own family. Everyone was displaced.

During one of our conversations, the idea and need for a "breather" for the women of Kibbutz Kfar Aza (KA) came up. From here, Rabbi Cohen said "Yes, we can do that!"

One of the things I experienced is the heart and generosity of this community. People that I didn't know reached out offering help and their time for driving, hikes, yoga, cooking, art projects, providing breakfast, massages, housing, and donating money—anywhere from \$18 to \$5,000.

More than anything, I was touched by the heartfelt generosity of this community. As an Israeli living in America, especially in the Santa Barbara community, I now feel strongly the sense of belonging that we are indeed one family of the Jewish people. I am also thankful to the many non-Jewish friends who have reached out to offer their sympathy and help. The human factor of lovingkindness is stronger than terror.

—Rabbi Belle Michael



Above, left: The Kfar Aza "sisters" and their CBB counterparts got together one last time at a closing night gathering. **Right:** The group visited Solvang during their week together.





WE WERE TOLD from the beginning by professionals not to ask about what they had experienced. But after the women were here for two days and got their bearings, they did want to talk about what had happened to them, and what their lives had become since October 7.

Each of the sisters was paired with a sister/buddy from our Jewish community. I believe we will now be lifelong friends. By the end of the trip, I felt like we had indeed given them a breather and in our own little way helped them to heal a bit.

We spent the last evening singing Israeli songs and some English camp songs. We too were changed by this experience and we heard from many in the Jewish community who were touched by the women's honesty and bravery in telling their stories to our community.

—Lisa Raphael



WE GREETED EACH OTHER with big hugs the moment the Israeli women arrived at their Santa Barbara house, and the connection with them was instantaneous. We had provided groceries for them and it was touching, as well as heartbreaking, to see the joy they expressed simply for having access to a kitchen again, even temporarily.

The strength they showed during the sharing time at Shabbat services that Friday and how deeply they were moved when the choir sang a popular Israeli song at the end of the evening are moments I will never forget.

Between Rabbi Belle's packed and well-thought-out itinerary, the involvement of the core group of the SB sisters and the many, many other volunteers and donors, I think the visit fulfilled and perhaps exceeded all expectations.

I hope to see our new friends again, hopefully in a not-too-distant future. But, more importantly, I sincerely hope their lives can be restored and they can heal from the terrible ordeal they have been through.

—Kamila Storr

Continued on next page

Above, clockwise: Kfar Aza "sisters" visit with Jen Lewis and the BHY Preschool; the women visit with Board Executive VP Janet Wolf; "sisters" Madlen Bing and Elizabeth Gaynes.



Announcing CBB's New Major Tikkun Olam Initiative

CBB'S TIKKUN OLAM MAJOR INITIATIVE is an annual or biennial congregation-wide project. The project is chosen by a committee made up of clergy, staff, Board members, and congregants. These initiatives identify and support causes or organizations that help to heal the world.

Following a call to our congregation for Tikkun Olam initiatives in spring 2024, we have selected "Our Family in Israel" project to support members of Kibbutz Kfar Aza as they go through the healing and rebuilding of their community.

Led by Rabbi Belle Michael and Lisa Raphael, with the support of Tikkun Olam Trustee Lynn Altschul, this project will have several components aimed at building relationships with our Kfar Aza brothers and sisters. This will include projects here and in Israel.

If you are interested in participating, or just want to share how the Kfar Aza women's visit affected you, we'd love to hear from you. Contact Rabbi Michael at belle.michael@gmail.com or Lynn Altschul at altschullynn@yahoo.com. ■

Why I Volunteer for CBB's Caring Community

By Jay Farbman



Volunteering has been part of my life as long as I can remember. I grew up in Santa Barbara and raised by a mother who was very active in different aspects of the community. When there were opportunities to volunteer, she either brought me along, or encouraged me to participate.

In the 1970s, the dance floor at Oak Park was being rebuilt. My mother had enjoyed Greek dancing there, so she felt she/we should do something to help. Neither one of us had construction skills, but we showed up, carried lumber and did what we could to help.

In 1980, a blue whale washed up at Vandenberg Air Force Base. It was being 'dismantled' and the bones were brought to the Museum of Natural History. We lived a few blocks away, so as a curious kid, I went over to see if I could help. Someone at the museum asked me if I had a sharp knife. For the next several weeks I showed up after school and cleaned the meat from the bones. If you lived in that neighborhood at the time, I'm sure you remember the smell!

Several years ago, David Gaynes invited me to join in and do some cooking at Sunday Morning Live. In the kitchen we had a great mix of ages and skills. We seemed to form little micro-communities within the kitchen.

There were the Fruit Cutters, the Egg Cookers, the Pots and Pans Washers, the Opening-the-Gefilte-fish-and-removing-the-gelatinous-slime. Everyone was volunteering and working together to be part of something special.

Some of my volunteering happens via groups. The Men of B'nai B'rith (MOBB) occasionally gets together to dig holes, move dirt, and things like that. (There is also some eating, drinking and socializing). Some of my volunteering is individual. Delivering food or packages to someone in need.

For me there is something special about being an active part of a community. Although it takes time and effort, the old saying is right: "The more you give, the more you get."

Jay Farbman works as a professional photographer in Santa Barbara.



AS AN ISRAELI living in Santa Ynez Valley, I learned about the visit through a social media post.

That's how I came to organize a full day of rest and relaxation in the SYV for all the "sisters."

That day turned out to not only bring these ladies a much-deserved day of R&R, but also helped them to see a wider community that embraces and cares about them. We hold those Kfar Aza hostages not yet released (as of Day 198) in our hearts: Gali Berman and his twin Ziv Berman, Doron Steinbrecher, Emily Damari, and Keith Siegel, as well as all other hostages and their families.

As cliché—and inexact—as it sounds, this was a labor of love. Our hearts yearned to bring hope, relief, and reassurance... to them and to us. We sent our hugs from afar. We wanted to ensure they felt it. And, truth be told, we needed to feel their hugs too.

—Li-At Rathbun



Above: The members of Kibbutz Kfar Aza send a thank you for CBB's support, June 2024.



When Challah Goes Wrong, Judaism Comes Out Right

By Rabbi Daniel Brenner

MY YOUNGER SISTER once volunteered to bake challah for our family Shabbat. She must have been 10 or 11 years old and was very excited to try to do it on her own. She compiled all the ingredients, mixed them together, and put the dough in the fridge to let it rise.

When the dough came out something seemed off about it, but she made the three strands, braided them, and put them in the oven just as the recipe said to do. But when she pulled it out of the oven she immediately knew something went wrong. Undeterred she put it on the challah plate and covered it up.

After reciting the Kiddush, she pulled off the challah cover to reveal a challah much flatter than usual. My mom asked if she remembered to put in yeast since it hadn't seemed to rise. Yes, she said.

We all took a bite of the richest flakiest challah we had ever eaten, and my mom knew immediately what happened. Instead of two tablespoons of butter, my sister put two full sticks of butter into the bowl.

We howled with laughter and ate the whole thing that night.

My parents made an effort to hold family shabbat dinners at home as much as possible when we were young kids. I have vague memories of

dozens of shabbat dinners mashed into a single picture of what shabbat looked like for our family. But the night of the croissant challah I remember clearly because something went wrong in the best of ways.

We have to allow space for these types of mistakes in Jewish community, because often they lead to the greatest outcomes.

I fear that too often as parents, Jewish role models, and even just as human beings, we hold on too tightly to process to avoid getting messy. We seek to control outcomes because we see the successful arrival at our stated goal as the *ikar*, the essence of our purpose.

But Judaism is meant to be a bit messy. Particularly with Jewish child-rearing, the allowance of mistakes is a necessity to their understanding that learning to live

a Jewish life is as human as learning to ride a bike.

If the Torah teaches us anything, it's that the journey is far more important than the outcome. Every single problem our ancestors encountered could have been wiped away by the biblical God, or caused to never exist in the first place. Forty years in the desert could have been 40 days. And the Torah never finishes the story. The moment we reach that final step outside of our destination we start back at the beginning of the Torah. We start the process of the journey all over again.

In many ways this reflects what we, CBB, have experienced over these last 18 months. During this transition period we have been getting messy. How many different locations has CBB used for programs, services, and gatherings? And how many programs have we adapted to fit our current configuration?

It's rather miraculous. When we do return home to our hilltop campus we will still be in transition, and thus are afforded the opportunity to get as messy as we can, to experiment and fail and succeed, and along the way make some really lasting memories. The "building" of Building Dreams will be completed, but the "dreams" will just be beginning. ■



Above (L-R): Rabbi Daniel Brenner and Felicia Palmer with daughter Liana. Photo by Kacie Jean.

How *Young Families* Like Mine Engage with CBB

By Serena Zahler



ENGAGING WITH CBB as a young family has been a new and enriching journey. Our experience began first with Mishpacha and Me, where while on maternity leave my infant daughter and I joined a few other new families in an intimate setting to share our experiences and challenges as new parents.

Looking back now it was so valuable for me to have a safe and warm space, as a new mom, to see how others played and thought about their relationship to their child and discuss as parents how our Jewish identity was reshaping before our eyes.

Once it got easier to leave the house in the evenings, we began attending Tot Shabbat. It was often hard to mobilize, but we knew that if we just got ourselves to Tot Shabbat our community would kick in and many facets of our new life would get easier for an evening.

We'd get the comfort of Shabbat in community, some much-needed adult interaction, willing arms to hold our child while we rested, along with smiles and verbal encouragement. All of this is invigorating when you're sleep deprived, exhausted new parents – not to mention the Motzi and dinner.

The “busy-ness” of Tot Shabbat with kids singing and playing and the low rumbling of Shabbat excitement during service while Rabbi told stories for the week's Torah portion showed us what was to come as our daughter would learning to walk and talk, eventually participating.

In the early days, it was a great way to beat the stress of the baby's “witching hour.” Now when we attend, there is so much joy and pride in seeing our daughter engaging in prayer and song and point to Cantor and the guitar and play with her friends at Oneg. We're always filled literally and spiritually as we leave Tot Shabbat.

Once our daughter enrolled in BHY Preschool we met many other young Jewish families with toddlers and children. Our classrooms started WhatsApp chats to coordinate school activities and extra-curriculars like birthdays and meet-ups. BHY's ParentSquare app has been a great way to keep a

Continued on page 21



T-B: Serena's daughter Shiloh paints a matzah cover; Shiloh and her mother and grandmother at a Havurah meeting; Moms enjoying a wine tasting benefiting BHY Preschool.



Above: Seva Shipitcyn, Zazu Lovejoy, and Kate Smith help run CBB's info table at the Pacific Pride festival, August 2023.

New LGBTQ+ Group Launches

By Dr. Philip Prinz

IN SPRING 2024, CBB established a new LGBTQ+ group called CBB Keshet (Keshet is Hebrew for rainbow.)

The group is co-led by myself and Peter Ginsburg, who joined CBB in 2021 after being a member of the Keshet Group at Beth Shalom Synagogue in San Francisco. Meanwhile, I bring with me my experience as a member of Sha'ar Zahav Synagogue in San Francisco, one of the oldest LGBTQ+ synagogues in the U.S.

With support and guidance from Rabbi Steve Cohen and Rabbi Daniel Brenner, CBB Keshet is dedicated to working with all LGBTQ+ members of CBB and their families and friends, to provide support and guidance, and to promote full equality, justice and dignity within CBB and the wider Jewish Santa Barbara community.

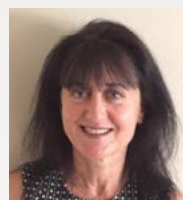
Our goals include sharing queer and Jewish experiences, supporting each other during challenging times, sponsoring social and educational activities, mentoring and learning from queer Jewish youth and representing CBB at the annual Santa Barbara Pride Festival.

A special objective is to create spaces in which all

Continued on page 22

Engaging our community one member at a time

By Laura Habecker



AS I LOOK BACK ON MY FIRST

YEAR as Membership Director at Congregation B'nai B'rith, I can't help but smile. I smile for the privilege and opportunity to serve my Santa Barbara Jewish

community and its members and non-members.

This year was filled with growth, challenges, and a lot of creativity. Although we are away from our San Antonio Creek home, we have still managed to develop meaningful groups, programs, and engagement activities.

Several new groups gathered either at our temporary Fairview campus or offsite for Mahjongg, knitting, photography and mindfulness, among others. Our monthly "Coffee & Community" group has engaged an ever-increasing number of attendees to share thoughts, feelings and fears, and try and make sense of this chaotic world.

In some cases, current engagement groups morphed into new versions of themselves. Previously called Boomers, our Prime Timers 50+ has taken off with a strong following, whether we gather for a Havdalah potluck, current event speaker, a live play, or a beautiful hike in our Santa Babara foothills.

Meanwhile, other groups continued to build on the strength they've shown in previous years. For example, Men of B'nai B'rith (MOBB) planned offsite activities to give our men time to develop friendships, eat and learn together.

And no wrap-up would be complete without mentioning the many Young Family meetups that took place (see Serena Zahler's article on page 14), connecting our Families with Young Children

Continued on page 22

Student Reflections on Judaism



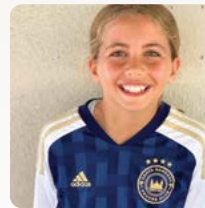
Collected by Jen Lewis

Photos by Ashton Belding



Purim is my favorite holiday because of the carnival and because I get to dress up.

—Ruby Cohen, 4th Grade



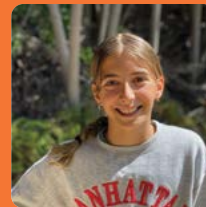
Shabbat is important because we celebrate it just like our ancestors have for thousands of years.

—Mia Greene, 5th Grade



To be a good Jew, you can go to t'fillah to pay your respect to G-d.

—Olivia Keshen, 5th Grade



My favorite time at JLP is going on hikes with Rabbi Steve!

—Natana Vapnek, 5th Grade



The best part about learning Hebrew is to learn a different language that is important to Jewish people.

—Crosby Foster, 5th Grade



The purpose of the Torah is that it is a big book of all the stories of Judaism and it tells all the history of us.

—Ryu Holmes, 6th Grade



I'm happy to be a Jew because we have really good food and the holidays are great!

—Ziv Sepunaru, 6th Grade



I keep coming back to CBB because all my Jewish friends are here since kindergarten. They're really nice and also all the teachers are super fun.

—Lydia White, 6th Grade



I'm proud to be Jewish because it makes me unique.

—Justen Van Pelt, 2nd Grade



At Netivot I learned that the Jews didn't have time to make bread rise so they just made matzah "for the road."

—Jacob Wilkenfeld, 2nd Grade



My favorite Jewish food is challah because I get to make it with my mom all the time.

—Alex Phillips, 1st Grade



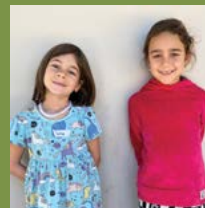
It's special to be Jewish because I get to have Jewish friends that I can make challah with.

—Matilda Cohn, 1st Grade



At Netivot, I learned that the Jewish people were trapped in Egypt but they escaped to Israel. That's the Passover story.

—Ari Kaplan, 1st Grade



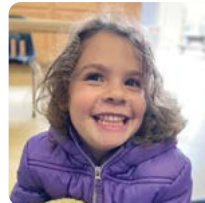
It's special to have Jewish friends because we celebrate holidays together.

—June Graff and Annabelle Golan, 1st Grade



The most important commandment is to be healthy.

—Brooks McRae, BHY



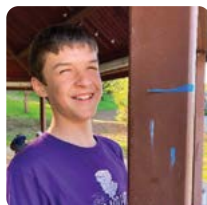
The most important rule in the Torah is "don't cut in line."

—Maxine Goldman, BHY



The most important rules are to be kind, help people and love... oh, and don't steal.

—Porter McRae, BHY



Rabbi Cohen knows a lot about the world, and is always willing to share that knowledge with others. Even when he doesn't know the answer to a question, he will try to get to a solution that will help the other person understand as much as they can about the subject.

—Ari Ludkovski, 8th Grade



Performing at the Hanukkah cabaret for the past 3 years has always been such an amazing feeling. Also, being able to rope my non-Jewish friends into it to show them what our celebrations are like has been such an incredible experience. I definitely plan to keep performing!

—Jakie Thompson, 8th Grade

Linda Kaufman Looks Back on 20 Years at CBB

By Mimi Dent

OVER THE COURSE of her 20 years teaching both at the Beit HaYeladim preschool and at Netivot, Linda Kaufman has watched enrollments ebb and flow, teachers come and go, leadership change, and toddlers grow up.

But she says the one constant has been the ability to share her love of Judaism—something she’s done with over 400 children. (She also raised her own two children, Patty and Howard, at CBB during that time).

Today, some of those same students have become her Netivot co-teachers, and some of the current BHY parents grew up with Linda’s children many moons ago. Did you know that Linda and Rabbi Steve were hired on the same day?

Our family was introduced to Linda in the Shafan (Bunnies) classroom, where upon arrival, the kids were playing with

shaving cream on the classroom tables. Some of the “littles” had only their hands in the cream, others were up to their elbows, while others had it in their hair and on their tummies.

Some kids were wearing aprons, others only diapers, some wore shoes, others were barefoot, and everything in between. The kids were silly, smiling, laughing, and clearly happy. We saw a learning space which felt safe, where kids could play, create, explore, and be free, with Linda as their teacher. We enrolled our daughter that day.

Then came toddler conflict. Linda knelt down to their level and said so gently, “I see that you are upset. How can I help you?” When our toddler bit others, Linda helped both kids who were involved. First, she attended to the

injured, and then addressed our little instigator, stating, “Your friend is upset. Let’s help them feel better.”

We were horrified that our child was a biter, but Linda helped us understand that biting is developmentally appropriate and usually occurs when a child lacks words to express their needs and wants easily. Thankfully, the biting stage did not last long, but Linda’s

Continued on page 22



Photos (above left): Sukkot with Linda’s granddaughters, Sage and Charlotte. **Right:** Linda with Jasper Gordon on the first day at BHY Preschool, 2022. **Top left:** Linda with Annabelle Golan, 2023. **Top right:** Linda with Sophie Dent, 2010.

Trip Connects CBB Teens to *Jewish Philadelphia*

By Fallyn Lee

LAST DECEMBER, 19 CBB teens including me spent nearly a week in Philadelphia, on a trip led by Rabbi Daniel Brenner and Laurie Green.

The trip was designed to connect with our Jewish peers while adventuring to the other side of the country and getting to do fun activities, some of which were surprises.

All of us were packed and ready to go at the Santa Barbara airport for an early plane ride to Philadelphia. I went on this trip because I knew some of my friends who I've known since preschool would be going, and they're also very convincing. Alongside this, I had never been on a teen trip with our temple before and wanted to reintegrate myself into our teen programs at CBB.

One memorable experience of the trip was the Improv show we went to. We got to see two teams of improvisers compete against each other to win best comedic performance. It was action packed and our very own Bram Nisen was chosen to be a part of the show!

One other memorable experience was giving out food to those in need at Temple Rodef Shalom, an historic Reform Jewish congregation in downtown Philadelphia. It felt great

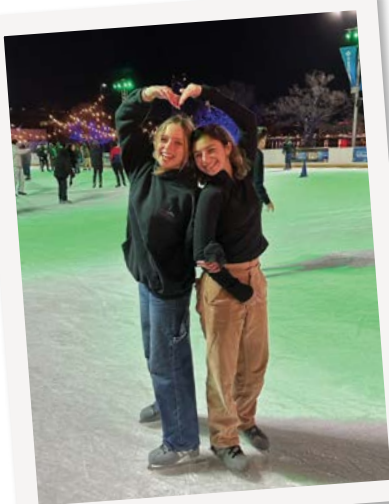
to be out there, even in frigid weather, making a difference and doing a mitzvah.

One favorite moment of the trip was sitting down in the hotel lobby each night to have a closing circle. I loved how we all got to connect at the end of a long day and appreciate certain things we saw our friends doing throughout the trip.

Another favorite moment



T-B: Last December's CBB trip included a visit to the Liberty Bell and an escape room in downtown Philadelphia. **Lower left:** Mariana Bennahum and Fallyn Lee (on the right) skate together.



has to be the revolving sushi restaurant we went to in the city. You basically got to eat however much you wanted because it was all so inexpensive, and your dishes would come out on the revolving belt right to your table. Oh, and I can't forget to mention the robots who brought out your drinks as well.

Speaking of restaurants, one of the top experiences for me was going to the Reading Terminal Market, as I'm a big foodie.

Continued on page 22



Left: A copy of the Florence Melton Award certification. **Right:** Judy Karin receives the award from Melton representatives including Rabbi Morey Schwartz, Randi Brenowitz, and Elisa Blank.

Melton Award Presented to Judy Karin

DURING AN INTERNATIONAL GATHERING of Melton School directors in New York City in February 2024, CBB's Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning was recognized with the prestigious Florence Melton Award.

The award, which is presented annually at the organization's conference, recognizes a Melton School that exemplifies the highest standards of the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning.

CBB's own director, Judy Karin, accepted the award in person. During his remarks while presenting the award, Rabbi Dr. Morey Schwartz, Melton International Director, said of Judy:

"You are a passionate, reliable, organized team player. Your enthusiasm for your work and sincere commitment to Melton are truly exemplary.....We at Melton International greatly appreciate your ongoing efforts and value our ongoing partnership."

Over the past eight years, CBB's Melton School has enrolled over 200 people in one or more of its core year-long deep-dives into Jewish learning, or in one of over a dozen 10-week specialized courses.

Adult learners have gone on to leadership positions at CBB. And they have benefited from the wisdom of our faculty, which includes Rabbi Cohen, Rabbi Brenner, Cantor Childs, and a dozen more talented teachers.

For more information about joining a Melton class please contact Judy Karin (jkarin@cbbsb.org).

The Melton School at CBB is only possible due to philanthropic support. Contact Julia George (julia@cbbsb.org) to discuss how your support can ensure the longevity of this important offering.

Continued from page 7

focusing on our future - and yours! One of the greatest gifts we have left to you is this beautifully updated campus.

We had a visionary goal: to build a Center for Jewish Life ("CJL") dedicated to enriching our community's spiritual, educational, and cultural life. This Center stands as a testament to our commitment to preserve and foster Jewish community and values, and enrich the lives of the greater Santa Barbara community.

We raised more than \$20 million from over 80% of our congregants to complete the project, affirming that this community is united in our passion to secure a vibrant Jewish home for future generations.

This project came with blood, sweat, and just a few tears. It took over 10 years to envision and then bring to fruition. Our synagogue, the heart of our community, relocated for almost two years during construction.

We are incredibly grateful that Trinity Lutheran Church opened its doors and welcomed our community as we held religious services within their walls. This act of kindness serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of interfaith understanding.

Contributing to our resilience has been the steadfast leadership of our amazing executive director, Elizabeth Gaynes, and our wonderful clergy: Senior Rabbi Steve Cohen, Associate Rabbi Daniel Brenner and Cantor Mark Childs.

Their commitment to our community never wavered. Now, after 20 years, we prepare for the retirement of

Continued on next page

our beloved Rabbi Cohen. We have embarked upon the transition process with discipline and thoughtfulness, allowing us an opportunity to plan for our future with the input of all of our members.

Our community's resilience and determination have enabled us to stand strong, ensuring that our traditions and values are passed down to you, the future generation. It is now your turn to envision and build something meaningful for the generations that follow, ensuring the continuity of our Jewish community.

May you continue to uphold the values of Judaism that have defined us. ■

Continued from page 7

On a rainy Sunday morning, we'll enjoy a Best Darn Breakfast and a thought-provoking speaker whose words will be clearly heard through our improved easy to use house sound system that will include T-coil connectivity for those using hearing aid.

And what happened to the old stage? It's being converted into a large storage area that will free up all the space along the Social Hall wall that was taken up by unsightly stacked chairs and tables. On sunny days, the room will be filled with glowing light coming through the new doors that open dramatically to the Central Plaza (formerly our back patio).

The new Sacred Space will be ideal for intimate "Shira B'tzibbur" (Israeli singalong) sessions and Netivot singing and praying and general rehearsal space. In any of our outdoor areas I can hear a Jewish music ensembles like Kalinka and Flor De Kanela sharing their repertoire on a summer evening or a solo guitarist languidly playing as we enjoy a Shabbat afternoon picnic in our new park area.

We'll again welcome Shabbat on

summer Fridays in our Abrahams Outdoor Chapel, sharing our voices with our neighbors and the Tuckers Grove dog park. I see those using walkers and wheelchairs easily finding their way to the Oneg Shabbat via our new elevator in plenty of time to join together with everyone else as we sing the Friday night kiddush in our Central Plaza.

In one of the new ground-floor classrooms of our Center for Jewish Learning, we'll have a full-service recording studio where you can record your next album or podcast or the audio book of your best-selling novel.

This "tech studio" will have students collaborating on, creating and editing content to inspire the world with messages of Tikkun Olam, and promos for an upcoming event at CBB.

The time is passing quickly. The campus construction moves forward each day. Over this past year, we've been making the best of our wanderings. Each of our locales have been meeting our needs with varying degrees of success.

There are many lessons we've been learning about ourselves along the way. The most important is that our synagogue community transcends physical space. I do, however, long for the time when we're all back in our home on San Antonio Creek Road. ■

Continued from page 14

calendar of CBB activities, specifically for young families.

As our family has matured and we've wanted to incorporate more Jewish life and friendships into our daily life, we've started working to create a Havurah. Growing up my parents had a Havurah and it was a nice way to have a focused group of Jewish friends who we could do holidays and every day activities with.

Many other young families prefer Saturday morning Library Minyan. Shabbat morning services outdoors allow parents to participate in prayer while their kids can participate, observe, or play nearby. We haven't yet taken advantage of young family events like Family Camp and Purim Carnival. We're looking forward to discovering these activities along the trail of our family journey.

I find it so wonderful that CBB's young family (and even not specifically young family-focused) services and events support the reality of families and children. The reality is that the kids are not going to be still and quiet... they are going to play and make noise, get hungry, ask questions, have feelings, engage in short spurts and be distracted.

CBB's perspective of surrounding our children with Jewishness and Jewish community whether they are actively participating, observing or just within the bounds of what's happening is refreshing and takes a lot of social anxiety and stress off of parents.

This friendly, flexible and supportive attitude towards children and their young families, truly embodies CBB's mission to create an inclusive community creating a warm and vibrant house of living Judaism. It has brought our family opportunities for friendship, connection to our spirituality as a family unit, fun and joy. So far, it's a circuitous journey that is filled with Jewish curiosity, learning and core memories. ■

Serena Zahler is mother to Shiloh Hochhalter and wife to Bailey Hochhalter, with whom she owns and operates Clear Construction, a general construction firm. In addition to helping start OpenDor, she is also the board BHY Trustee.

Continued from page 15

queer Jewish youth can be seen and heard. This will be promoted through the support of Rabbi Daniel Brenner and OpenDor (for 20s and 30s).

For more information about CBB Keshet please contact Phoebe Light, Community Engagement Coordinator, at phoebe@cbb.org. ■

Dr. Philip Prinz is Professor Emeritus, San Francisco State University (SFSU), and he joined CBB in 2022.

Continued from page 15

community to each other to form friendships and raise children Jewishly in Santa Barbara.

A healthy, vibrant, growing community is built on connections within groups and between groups. It is my privilege and joy to play an active role in fostering these relationships.

We must continue to meet our congregants wherever they are, whether on a hiking trail, playing Mahjongg, cooking or celebrating together Jewishly.

I cannot wait to greet everyone back at our newly revitalized campus. I see it filled with people, full of activities, with hope and energy, and the aroma of fresh challah on Shabbat. ■

Continued from page 18

lessons and patience with our girls have lasted a lifetime. The kids learned to be empathetic and kind. John and I learned how to communicate with toddlers, helping us become better parents.

When we reminisced together, Linda shared that there is so much she loves about working with toddlers. "Everything is fresh and new to them. They learn so quickly. They start the year with very little language and end with conversations! The rate of development at this age is mind blowing and it's exciting to share, support and participate in this growth."

She also loves to get a second chance with them when they come to Netivot for Kindergarten. "It's all so familiar and fun to introduce them to the next level of their Jewish journey. For many, I get to be their first teacher twice!"

Our three teenage daughters are still deeply connected to CBB, in part because of the sense of security, love and warmth that Linda created and continues to offer. Our girls, our family, and the entire community, have been loved by Linda for over 20 years.

We are grateful that Linda is still showering children with her early childhood expertise, warm heart, fun songs and games, delicious recipes and her love for Jewish learning. ■

Continued from page 19

It was probably the most variety of food I had ever seen in one building.

Something unexpected that did happen involved our return flight home. We were supposed to get on a plane from Philly to Chicago, then from Chicago to LAX, but that is not what happened. Instead, we were stranded in Louisville, Kentucky after our first plane ran out of fuel.

That was my first time ever being in the Louisville airport, and I never want to go back, I can assure you of that. We ended up making it home to Santa Barbara safe and sound, and that concluded our trip.

My biggest takeaway is to let Rabbi Brenner handle things because he will always find a way. I also think other teens should participate on trips like these because they're so much fun, and such a great way to spend quality time with your Jewish friends.

Don't miss out on opportunities for connection and new experiences, I guarantee you'll have the best time and want to go on all the teen trips! ■



*In recognition of her many years of dedicated and impactful service to our community, we are delighted to announce the establishment of the **Executive Director's Discretionary Fund**, made possible through a generous anonymous donation in Elizabeth Gaynes' honor. This fund will empower our Executive Director with the flexibility to respond swiftly and effectively to the needs of our community, beyond our regular operations, including special projects that provide assistance to individuals in need, support other non-profits, empower and acknowledge our staff, and more.*

*Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our mission.
Together, we are fostering a stronger, more compassionate community.*

—CBB Board of Trustees

Mazel Tov! *In Our Lives*



① To Nikki and Dr. Zadok Sacks and older siblings Grady and Charlie on the birth of Maren Laurel Sacks, born on August 5, 2023.



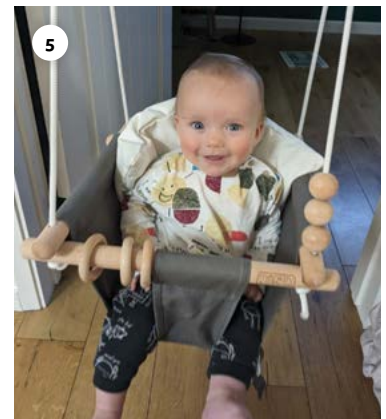
② To Helen and Courtland Goldengate and big sisters Rydia and Celes on the birth of Terra Linda Goldengate, born on August 22, 2023.

③ To Emily Primack and Mark Goldman and big sister Maxine Goldman Primack on the birth of Ezra Goldman Primack, born on August 25, 2023.

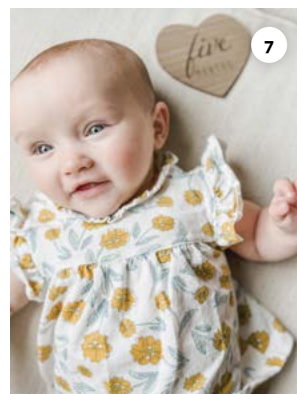


④ To Ariel and Matthew Miller and big brother Leo on the birth of Noah Miller, born on September 14, 2023.

⑤ To Rachel & Tom Thornton and older siblings Arlo, Hugh, and Leonie, on the birth of Eddy Gabriel Thornton, born on September 26, 2023.



⑥ To Hannah and Steven Blumenfeld on the birth of Orli Blumenfeld, born on October 19, 2023.



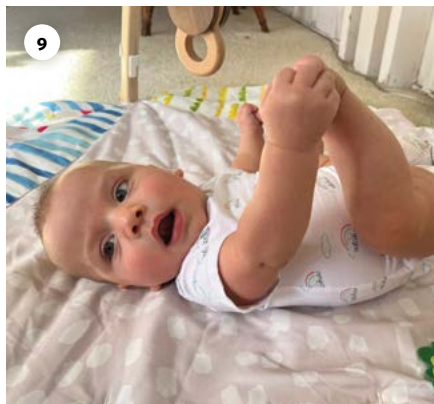
⑦ To Megan and Calvin Yoskowitz and big brother Harrison on the birth of Margaret Mae Yoskowitz, born on November 17, 2023.

Mazel Tov! *In Our Lives*

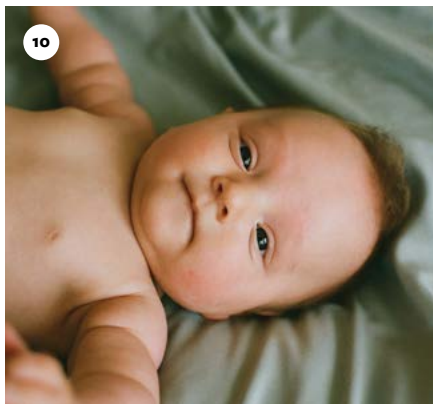


⑧ To Zoe Liberman and Elan Shpigel and big sister Emma on the birth of Joseph Shpigel, born on December 7, 2023.

⑨ To Alanna Ford and Daniel Stone and big brother Micah Stoneford on the birth of Jonah Stoneford, born on December 11, 2023.



⑩ To Alicia Beckett and Dennis Lyandres on the birth of Joshua Lyandres, born on January 27, 2024.



⑪ To Jasmine Enriquez and Cameron Nelson and big brother Avi on the birth of Aria Grace Nelson, born on February 1, 2024.

⑫ To Brittney and Jamie Smith and older siblings Poppy and Goldie on the birth of Jordy McKay Smith, born on March 27, 2024.



⑬ To Naomi and Rory Sheehey and big sister Claire on the birth of Connor Cormac Sheehey, born on April 19, 2024.



⑭ To Felicia Palmer and Rabbi Daniel Brenner and big sister Liana on the birth of Nava Daisy-Mae Brenner, born on May 13, 2024.

May Their Lives Be For a Blessing

June 2023 to June 2024

Ilan Levi	Abe Presser	Judy Poole
Seymour Bachmuth	Herbert Schwab	Shirley Sarah Pomerantz
Nancy Lander	Rachel Kharrazi	Joel Weixel
Jessica Glick	Regine Pringle	Mary Zeidler
Laurence Feder	Laura Smith	Bonnie Goodman
Donna Joyce Altounian	Henry Rose	Katie Shovers
Bobbi Kroot	Reuben Walker Smith	Sheryl Brake
Corey Nathaniel Suydam	Jacob Trambert	Jana Young
Tom Bates	Sanford Bothman	Dr. Howard Cooperman
Claire Goldstein	Rosalie Greenspon	Laurie Fox
Dale Roskos	Diane Cohen	Howard Silver
Lotte Moritz Garber	Susan Rossy Winokur	Myllicent Hamilton
Irma Jurkowitz	Arthur Mazirow	Roma Singell
Irene Hymanson	Mimi Kottelman Goer	Elias Lifshitz
Cesia Kingston	Marilyn Weixel	Irene Levy
Marjorie Salter	Amos Pollack	Sheldon Rosenfield

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

Jewish tradition offers many rituals to comfort the mourner. If you have experienced a loss in your family, please contact Audrey at (805) 964-7869 ext 113, or at audrey@cbbsb.org. Our clergy, staff, and community are here to support you during this difficult time.



“We are here because people before us thought about the future, and made a covenant, a commitment to the future, in the face of total uncertainty.”

—Rabbi Steve Cohen

The members of the Children of the Covenant, CBB’s legacy giving society, have all made a promise for tomorrow. A legacy gift is an important act of tzedakah and a way to pass down traditions and values to future generations. We appreciate these commitments as they serve our community in perpetuity.

For more information about the Children of the Covenant, visit cbbsb.org/cotc. If you have questions, or would like to make a legacy gift, contact Julia George, Director of Development, at julia@cbbsb.org or (805) 964-7869.

Above, right: Bob Rothenberg, Richard Abrams, and Jeff Kupperman; Jane & Terry Honikman and Barbara & Ernie Marx; and Louise Wyner, Daniel Hochman, Natalie Gaynes, Mandy Hochman and Sissy Taran.



Our sincere gratitude to the members of the Children of the Covenant

Anonymous (13)
 Beverly & Richard Abrams
 Ronit & Albert* Anolick
 Deborah Naish & Howard Babus
 Esther* & Robert Baum
 Robert Benham
 Barbara & Yoav Ben-Horin
 Marlyn Bernard Bernstein*
 Judy & Burt Bernstein
 Louise Blumberg-Wyner & Alan Wyner*
 Helga R. Carden
 Wilma* & Burt Chortkoff
 Rhoda & Jesse Colman
 Lilyan Cuttler
 Ina & Aaron Ettenberg
 Andee & Robert Gaines
 Natalie & Ken* Gaynes
 Louise Gerber
 Marilyn Gilbert
 Bryan & Verna Gindoff
 Viola S.* & Lester A. Girsh*
 Sylvia Glass*
 Helene Glassman
 Jessica* & Randy Glick



Ellen Goldman
 Karen Greenberg
 Barbara & Jon Greenleaf
 Pam Gunther
 Deborah & Steve Hartzman
 Ruth* & Gerald W.* Harter
 Kenneth Hartoch*
 Ruth* & Bob* Hartzman
 Daniel E. & Mandy Hochman
 Ruelene* & Louis Hochman*
 Jane & Terry Honikman
 Janice Ingrum
 Judith & James Kahan
 Erika Kahn
 Charles Kaiser
 May & Bert Karin
 Judy Karin & Dan Cohen
 Lauren & Stephen* Katz
 Judi & Alex Koper
 Nancy & Jeffrey Kupperman
 David Landecker
 Sharon Landecker
 Evelyn Laser Shlensky
 Melanie Lansing* & Richard Baum*
 Shirley & Seymour Lehrer
 Ilan* and Barbara Levi
 Nina Liff*
 Julie Lopp

Sheba Lux
 Cindy & Steve Lyons
 Marta Martine-Strauss
 Barbara & Ernie Marx
 Sara Miller McCune
 Gail S. Michelson* & Terry J. Madaus*
 Barbara & Al* Mintzer
 Eve Morong
 Mrs. Raymond King Myerson*
 Betty Oberacker
 Maeda Palius & Michael O'Kelley*
 Madelyn & Jeff* Palley
 Richard Parisse
 Gela Percal*
 Marnie & Steven Pinsker
 Harriet Phillips*
 Elaine Potts
 Armando Quiros*
 Ellen & Robert Raede
 Lisa & David Raphael
 Lundy & Fredric Reynolds
 Adele Rosen
 Sheliya & Jeff Rosenblum
 Gayle & Charles Rosenberg
 Joan & Bob Rothenberg
 Lauren Saltman
 Eve Senn*
 Lisa Serby

Nancy & Michael Sheldon
 Halina W. & Albert J.* Silverman
 Amy & Lee Silverman
 Margaret Singer*
 Arnold Spechler
 Devora Sprecher
 Susan* & Stephen Stone
 Michael Tantleff
 Sissy Taran
 Leah & Bob* Temkin
 Anne & Michael* Towbes
 Liat & Michael Wasserman
 Betty Helton & Alex Weinstein
 Cheryl & Murray* Welkowsky
 Marilyn* & Joel Weixel*
 Marcy & Jon Wimbish
 Don Wolfe
 Sara & Nick Woolf
 Albert Yenni*
 Rabbi Ira Youdovin

*Of blessed memory

Leadership Giving

We are grateful to those who make significant financial contributions, in addition to membership, to provide a strong foundation for CBB's operations. This generous support also maintains our commitment to being open and inclusive, welcoming all and providing assistance to those in need.

Visionary

Anonymous
Dan & Robin Cerf
Daniel E. & Mandy Hochman
Rachel & Tessa Kaganoff
Shirley & Seymour Lehrer
Peter Levine
Sara Miller McCune
Fredric & Lundy Reynolds
Barbara Rosenblum
Carrie Towbes & John Lewis
Cliff & Crystal Wyatt
Charles Zegar & Merryl Snow
Zegar

Pillar

Anonymous
Deborah Naish & Howard
Babus
Rabbi Steve & Marian Cohen
Natalie Gaynes
Roger & Robin Himovitz
Nancy & Jeff Kupperman
Cindy & Steve Lyons
Mike & Dale Nissenson
Ken & Andy Saffir
Richard & Rosemary Sanders
Nancy & Mike Sheldon
Carol Spungen
Sissy Taran
Geof & Laura Wyatt

Builder

Anonymous (6)
Craig Hartzman
Morris & Irma* Jurkowitz
Lauren Katz
Janet Markel
Joy & Doug Maskart

Dan Meisel & Amy Wendel
Charles & Betsy Newman
Beverly Penner
Susan Percal
Ellen & Rob Raede
Etty Yenni
Amy & Craig Zimmerman

Rabbi's Circle Chai

Diane Gilbert & Geoffrey
Evans
Jay & Marsha Glazer
Arthur & Bobbi* Kroot
Rich Parisse & Martie Levy
Sharon & Marc Seidler

Rabbi's Circle

Anonymous (4)
Winton & Sheryl Berci
Louise Blumberg Wyner
Michael & Tracy Bollag
Doris Cohen
Noel & Emily Cohen
Julianna & Tom Dain
John & Elizabeth Dexter
Toby Donner
Ina & Aaron Ettenberg
Stan & Roberta Fishman
Jonathan & Pam Gartner
Harris & Bernice Gelberg
Len Homeniuk & Marina
Stephens
Janice & Robert Ingram
Jim & Judi Kahan
Susan & David Kalt
Helene & Abbe Kingston
David Landecker
James & Elinor Langer
Pamela Larsson-Toscher

*Of blessed memory

Evely Laser Shlensky & Ira
Youdovin
Alan Levy & Lisa Morris Levy
Gary & Vicky Linker
Barbara & Ernie Marx
Barbara Robins
Bob & Joan Rothenberg
Doris & Bob Schaffer
Joel & Joanne Shefflin
Mark & Kate Shevitz
Halina W. Silverman
Allan Morton & Paula
Steinmetz
Betty Helton & Alex Weinstein
Donna Weinstein
Marc Winnikoff
Stuart & Betsy Winthrop
Jeffrey & Jana* Young
Diane & Steve Zipperstein

Sustainer

Anonymous (2)
Marion Anker
Richard Appelbaum & Karen
Shapiro
Deirdre Hade & William Arntz
Ray Aronson & Laurie Greene
Alicia Beckett & Dennis
Lyandres
Laura Bialis & Avi Vaknin
Lawrence Bines
Arnold Brier & Jill Feldman
Sondra & Robert Brown
Helen & Dan Curhan
Adam Diskin
Jeff & Monica Fried
Andee & Robert Gaines
Allen Gersho & Michele Bass
Oren & Nancy Glasman

Laurie Harris & Richard Hecht
Debbie & Steve Hartzman
Judy Karin & Dan Cohen
Mitchell Kauffman & Joanne
Moran
Judi & Alex Koper
Melodie & Grant Lee
Glenn & Susanne Lerner
Al & Norine Lever
Susan Lichtenstein & John
Rokacz
Fima & Jere Lifshitz
Josie Martin
Lowell Miller & Sally Gordon
Myra & Spencer Nadler
Joe & Lindsay Pasternack
Dante & Ann Pieramici
Steven & Marnie Pinsker
Lewis & Ruth Rubin
Carol Sacks & Matthew Stotts
Glen & Susan Serbin
Steven & Jackie Sereboff
Harvey & Ellen Silverberg
Amy & Lee Silverman
James & Nancy Sinai
Franny Taran Freund & Charlie
Freund
David & Gail Teton-Landis
Alexander & Jessica Truitt
Robert & Florie Wachtenheim
Michael & Liat Wasserman
Walt & Rachel Wilson
Jon & Marcy Wimbish
Harvey & Janet Wolf
Donald H. Wolfe
Nick & Sara Woolf
Joan & Steven Young

Listing reflects all tax deductible contributions in previous or current membership year, as of June 6, 2024.

Your Support Keeps CBB Strong!

By making Congregation B'nai B'rith a philanthropic priority, you are not just sustaining CBB today, you are helping to ensure the strength of our Jewish home for generations to come. Below are some of the ways you can make an impact.

Allow CBB the flexibility to support the areas of greatest need

General Fund

Secure the future for generations to come

Endowment

Building Dreams Capital Campaign

Empower CBB's leaders

Rabbi Cohen's Discretionary Fund

Cantor Childs' Discretionary Fund

Rabbi Brenner's Discretionary Fund

Executive Director's Discretionary Fund

Repair the world

Tikkun Olam Fund

Mitzvah Day

Care for our community when they are in greatest need

Chevre Kadisha

Emergency Medical Relief

Support early childhood education and youth

Beit HaYeladim Preschool

Jewish Learning Programs

Temple Youth Group (SBORTY)

Support the arts and music

Harold and Sylvia Oreskes Music Fund

Remove financial barriers through scholarship funds

Judy Meisel Preschool Scholarship Fund

Jewish Learning Programs Scholarship Fund

Yale Freed Camperships (Camp Scholarships)

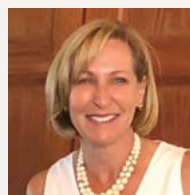
Janet Laichas Jewish Learning Fund (Adult Education)

Teen Travel Scholarship Fund

To learn about giving to CBB, visit cbbsb.org/give or contact Julia George, Director of Development, at julia@cbbsb.org.

From Strength to Strength: Why Supporting Building Dreams Is Important to Me

By Lauren Katz



TEN YEARS AGO, when my husband Steve and I were meeting with Rabbi Cohen, he told us about his dream of a newly renovated campus. A place where the community

could gather to worship and learn.

The Rabbi talked to us about having “outdoor” classrooms. This seemed like a novel idea at the time. It was before the pandemic had redefined so much about how we view education. But Steve’s career had been in marketing and sales, and he liked to approach things from “outside the box.”

Steve was an advocate of the outdoors (a technical rock climber and avid backpacker in his earlier years) who felt that everyone could thrive in outdoor settings. Not surprisingly, Steve thought Rabbi Cohen’s idea was ingenious.

After Steve passed in 2017, and the synagogue launched the Building Dreams project, I knew that helping to fund one of the outdoor classrooms would be the perfect way to honor his memory.

When the new CBB campus opens in 2025, I envision the new outdoor classrooms as a very joyful place where one can learn, laugh, and enjoy the beautiful surroundings. In Santa Barbara, we are very lucky to live in a place I think of as paradise.

As a supporter of many non-profit organizations, I know the generosity of the supporters is crucial to any organization. The support we give today will have an impact for many years into the future. In the past, my family and I reaped the benefits of other’s generosity. Now that I have grandchildren, it is more important than ever for me to pay it forward.

I am so proud to help contribute to a newly envisioned CBB campus and am thankful to everyone who has put untold time and money into this project. *Chazak, Chazak, V’nitchazek* – From Strength to Strength May We Be Strengthened.

VOICES

Editor

Paul Zakrzewski

Contributors

Lynn Altschul
Rabbi Daniel Brenner
Cantor Mark Childs
Rabbi Steve Cohen
Mimi Dent
Jay Farbman
Laura Habecker
Lauren Katz
Judi Koper
Fallyn Lee
Martie Levy
Jen Lewis
Rabbi Belle Michael
Philip Prinz
Lisa Raphael
Li-at Rathbun
Nancy Sheldon
Kamila Storr
Marcy Wimbish
Serena Zahler

Photographers

Ashton Belding
Jay Farbman
Julia George
Jon Greenleaf
Kacie Jean
Jen Lewis
Serena Zahler

Graphic Design

Kim McKeown Studio

Find us on social media

facebook.com/cbbsb
instagram.com/cbb_sb

Find our **CBB Voices blog** at
cbbsb.org/blog

VOICES is a publication offered
free of charge once a year.

Congregation B'nai B'rith

1000 San Antonio Creek Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
805/964-7869 | cbbsb.org

Board 2024/2025

OFFICER/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Marcy Wimbish, Co-President
Nancy Sheldon, Co-President
Janet Wolf, Executive VP
Dan Cerf, Administrative VP
Jonathan Gartner, Finance VP
Charles Newman, Membership VP
Ann Pieramici, Program VP
Dan Phillips, Education VP
Jeff Kupperman, Development VP
Diane Zipperstein, Past President

TRUSTEES

Serena Zahler, BHY Preschool
Derek Rosen, Administrative
Nick Woolf, Finance
Ari Goldstein, Religious Practices
Agnes Effron, Caring Community
Alan Levy, Parliamentarian
Tessa Kaganoff, Development
Marina Schuller, Jewish Learning Programs
Noel Cohen, Secretary
Lynn Altschul, Tikkun Olam
Ron Golan, At-Large
Merith Cosden, At-Large
Janet Malki, At-Large
Daniel Hochman, Shomrei HaBrit
(Guardian of the Covenant)
Martie Levy, Building Dreams

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Marlyn Bernard Bernstein*
Aaron Ettenberg
Ruelene Hochman*

*Of blessed memory

Clergy & Professional Staff

Rabbi Steve Cohen

rabbi@cbbsb.org

Cantor Mark Childs

cantor@cbbsb.org | ext 116

Rabbi Daniel Brenner

rabbibrenner@cbbsb.org | ext 117

Elizabeth Gaynes

Executive Director
elizabeth@cbbsb.org | ext 111

Julia George

Director of Development
julia@cbbsb.org | ext 108

Ron Gleiberman

Director of Operations
ron@cbbsb.org | ext 137

Terry Grimes

Bookkeeper & HR Manager
terry@cbbsb.org | ext 119

Jen Lewis

Director of Jewish Learning Programs
Director of BHY Preschool
jen@cbbsb.org | ext 336

Megan Lewis

Executive Assistant
megan@cbbsb.org | ext. 131

Laura Habecker

Membership Director
laura@cbbsb.org | ext 104

Phoebe Light

Community Engagement Coordinator
phoebe@cbbsb.org | ext 103

Audrey Okaneko

Office Manager/Clergy Assistant
audrey@cbbsb.org | ext 113

Leah Savage

Assistant Director of Jewish Learning Programs
leah@cbbsb.org | ext 225

Paul Zakrzewski

Director of Communications
& Programs
paulz@cbbsb.org | ext 128



T-B (clockwise): Christina Burton & Michael Tantleff; Debbie Rehr, Rich Parisse, & Martie Levy; Marina Schuller, Belinda Zola, & Sissy Taran; and Ari Goldstein & Cassie Shea.

Thank you to our sponsors



L'DOR V'DOR

SUPPORTING ALL GENERATIONS
AT CONGREGATION B'NAI B'RITH

**Thank you to all of our guests
and supporters—your generosity
raised over \$180,000 to support all
generations at CBB!**

Platinum

Marian & Rabbi Steve Cohen
Daniel & Mandy Hochman
Merryl & Chuck Zegar

Gold

Anonymous
Taran & Freund Family
Zola Family

Silver

Noel & Emily Cohen
Julianna & Tom Dain
Gaynes Family
Rachel & Tessa Kaganoff
Carrie Towbes & John Lewis
Joel & Joanne Shefflin
Jeffrey & Jana* Young

Bronze

Susan & David Kalt
Kupperman Families
Deborah Naish & Howard Babus
Charles & Betsy Newman
Rich Parisse & Martie Levy
JPR Financial Services, Joan & Bob
Rothenberg
Sheldon Family
Lee & Amy Silverman
Cornerstone Home Lending, Marcy
Wimbish
Sara & Nick Woolf

Supporters

Anonymous
Marilyn Gilbert
Lewbel Family
Janet & Alan Malki
Anne Towbes

*Of blessed memory

CONGREGATION B'NAI B'RITH

High Holy Days

2024

Saturday, September 28

Selichot

Wednesday, October 2

Erev Rosh Hashnah

Thursday, October 3

Rosh Hashanah

Friday, October 11

Kol Nidre

Saturday, October 12

Yom Kippur

*We look forward to seeing you at High Holy Days,
which will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Santa Barbara,
21 E Constance Avenue, Santa Barbara.*

Visit cbbsb.org/hhd for details.

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