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Cover: Toby Donner and Helen Curhan at the Mountains of Wisdom Weekend, May 2025. Photo by Amy Katz.

We Welcome Our New Members

June 2024 to June 2025

Heather & Corey Berse

Kimberly Young & Joshua Boswell

Anne Krinsky

Daniel Heitner

Hannah Solis-Cohen & Andrew
MacDonnell

Angela Locke

Kimberly & Charles Ray

Danielle Chaikin

Lily Kharrazi

Rebecca Fischel & Doug Colfax

Meredith & Tyler Zicht

Nora Badal & Colin Kagel

Haley Meskunas & Adam Garber

Howard Malmad

Teri & Curt Munger

Stephanie Kotin & David Beltran

Kate Heffernan & Charlie Sklare

Marilyn Bernstein

Sara & Zachary Kingsberg

Margaux & Joel Dovev

Sari Dworkin & Kathryn Bumpass

Alexandra Sinderbrand & Parker
Ferguson

Holly & Steve Radom

Jason & Brienna Cohen

Lois Phillips

Jacqueline & Leonard Kamlet

Blanca Mesa & Jonathan Ullman

Pamela Sandler & Ariel Salem

Susan Epstein & Jon Zuber

Laurie Arkin

Adrienne & Lewis Cohen

Elana Resnick & William Nomikos

Cassandra Shea

Heather Lorentz & Anil Mundra

Jonathan Wideman

Fern & Robert Bronfman

Susan Shaberman

Phyllis Margolis

Alison Zuber & Andy Cohen

Domonique & Daniel Melnick

Carla & Roy Kiesler

Kimberly & Barry Rosenberg

Allison & Wesley McRae

Julie Sperling Prentice & Craig Prentice

Joy & Joe Kaplan

Susan Beckett

Nancy & Harvey Solway

Tamar & Lior Ella

Josephina & Robert McCoy

Patty & Cody Makela

Hyon Chough Singer & Maurice Singer

Ilana & Nick Trejo

Adam Karofsky & Ashley Boudreau

Karl Sonkin

Rob Peck & Laxmi Oinam

Suzanne & Abe Peck

Benjamin Halpert & Josephine Marganian

Bryce & Sara Uhrig

Marlene Rifkin

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



You say goodbye,

Rabbi Steve Cohen reflects on 40 years of leadership in Jewish Santa Barbara



How and when did you decide to become a rabbi?

It was Thanksgiving break during my junior year of college. I didn't know what I wanted to do for my career. I was studying American history, which was really interesting to me, but it didn't relate to the deepest part of myself.

I had ruled out medicine and law and really didn't know what else was available for somebody like me. So, I met with the rabbi at my synagogue because I needed to know what Judaism says is our purpose here on earth in order to choose my career. The funny thing is, I don't actually remember what he said to me. But he did start talking about his work as a rabbi, and that sounded great to me.

What was it about his description that really felt meaningful to you?

The biggest thing was hearing him talk about getting close to people in critical moments in their life – death, marriage, B'nai Mitzvot. It was very important to me to have that kind of intimacy. It was becoming clear to me at that point in my life that the most important part of my identity as a person was being Jewish.

I was very drawn to the idea of going really deep into my Jewish heritage and identity, and learning as much as I could. Even though I didn't know much about what it really meant to be a rabbi, I was very clear that I wanted to immerse myself in Jewish learning. That was enough for me to go forward into that unknown.

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Above (L-R): Rabbi Steve Cohen with Sara Miller McCune in 2017; Rabbi Cohen and Cantor Mark Childs in the early 2000s; Rabbi and Marian Cohen with Rachel and Ari in the early 1990s; Rabbi Daniel Brenner interviews Rabbi Steve and Rabbi Sharon Anisfeld Cohen at the Mountains of Wisdom weekend, May 2025.



I say hello...

Interviews by Hallie Avolio

Rabbi Daniel Brenner on his new role as senior rabbi



How and when did you decide to become a rabbi?

It happened at IHOP in Downtown LA near Union Station. It was at the end of my freshman year of college, and I was having breakfast with a close friend

who asked me how my first year went.

I opened up and told her I was disillusioned with the path I had chosen studying political science. And then I told her how much I loved working at the Jewish summer camp and teaching at the religious school. I also realized I hated being bored and the thought of a desk job after college sounded awful.

My friend looked up from her pancakes and casually said, “So

you want to be a rabbi?”

That was the moment. I had been told my whole life that I would make a great rabbi, but it was never something I wanted until that moment.

You’ve come a long way since that pivotal moment at IHOP. What are some of the things you are most proud of in your rabbinate so far?

There are so many moments that I’m proud of and that have been meaningful to me. One of those is travel. I’m a real advocate of differentiating travel from vacation. I think that travel can be a meaningful educational experience and part of a spiritual life.

I have spearheaded many travel initiatives in our community from rebuilding homes for fire victims in Northern California, to our congregational Israel trip, to taking our Young Adult

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Above (L-R): Rabbi Brenner leads a song at Goleta Beach; Rabbi Brenner during his first days as assistant rabbi in 2017; Rabbi Brenner and Felicia Palmer with daughters Liana and Nava in 2024.

Letter from CBB's President

A richer and more fulfilling Jewish life

By Nick Woolf



WHAT A YEAR of transition for Congregation B'nai B'rith—a new Senior Rabbi and Assistant Rabbi, an upgraded campus with a new Center for Jewish Life, and a new President, who I am deeply honored to find is me.

It is 10 years since I discovered CBB after many decades away from belonging to a Temple. It began with friends encouraging me to try Rabbi Cohen's Torah Study. My wife Sara and I were warmly welcomed, and we were hooked after the first session. We immediately became regulars, quickly making many new friends.

It never occurred to us to do anything at CBB more than weekly Torah Study. But after several months Elizabeth Gaynes, our extraordinary Executive Director, approached us to say she had seen us often at Torah Study, and we would be very welcome to join the Temple.

However, we didn't have to, we could keep coming anyway, and to anything else we wished. But if we did want to join, we could pay the suggested membership commitment—but we didn't have to, we could pay whatever we wished.

Little did she know that she was pushing exactly the right buttons. If I am not required to do something I am intrigued and will often want to do it. And to my surprise we joined CBB right away. Once we were members we thought we might as well see what else was on offer. Lo and behold, there was a lot. And almost everything included a meal.

Soon enough we were at CBB more and more often—first this looked good, and then that was possibly interesting, and

maybe we should try this...

I enjoyed my new friendships so much I asked to volunteer. I was steered to a role that fit me well, chairing and expanding the Caring Community. Then I was invited to take the Leadership Institute program at CBB, a very professional and well-organized training program for future lay leaders.

I was happy to do this, even though I knew perfectly well I had no future as a leader of CBB, having listened to what to me were the grown ups in the room—extraordinarily confident and effective Presidents and others in various leadership positions.

Then I was asked, as a CPA, to join the Finance Committee, and some time later to become Finance Trustee. All this happened in an unplanned way, and each time I expected the latest activity to be the summit of what I could contribute. And then, unexpectedly...this new role of President.

Reflecting on all of this, I recognize that everybody has their own way in to the CBB community. Not everyone is interested in Torah Study. For others it will be something completely different. But whatever it is, one appealing activity leads on to another through the people that you meet. And then another, until one is more involved than expected or planned.

Looking back, the key for us was to be open to new activities and just try them. Some stuck and some didn't. But what we learned was that we make our close friends through the purposeful activities we do together. For me and my family this has become the foundation of our Jewish life.

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A New Piano Enhances CBB's Musical Tradition

By Cantor Mark Childs

FOR THE URBAN SYNAGOGUES

of Western Europe in the early 19th century the pipe organ was the emblematic instrument of the emancipation of the Jews. With citizenship, Jews were now free to prosper in many ways that were previously unattainable.

The desire to live fully immersed in the host society led to assimilation in fashion, work, and religious life. The new synagogues in the large cities of France and Germany were built to be as grand as their neighboring churches and cathedrals.

The music that was composed to fill these massive and awe-inspiring spaces eschewed the modal improvisational style of traditional synagogue chant for the formal, western rules of composition and harmonization.

Grand operatic choral music was the musical vocabulary of the era. Instrumental accompaniment, previously forbidden in synagogues since the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, was provided by sonically rich pipe organs.

With the growth of the Reform movement in the U.S., these musical sensibilities were imported and thrived. If you were a member of CBB as late as 1986, you experienced a choir

accompanied by an old Hammond organ hidden off the sanctuary in what is now the Cantor's Study (which, by the way, is available for a naming opportunity. Just saying.).

As worship styles evolved over the decades, so did musical styles. A few years after Dylan went electric and *Hair* was on Broadway, we began seeing Jewish composers writing rock services and jazz services and folk services.

The organ in the sanctuary collected dust as it was used only on rare occasions. The pipes fell into disrepair and soon became too expensive to fix. The piano however, under the right hands, was versatile enough to play any style of music. It was moved into most Reform synagogue sanctuaries and, along with the guitar, became the instrument of choice for cantors and choirs.

Our CBB congregation is blessed with a rich musical heritage. Many of you can recall cantorial soloist Sharon Currier z"l and Cantor/Rabbi Sam Cohon.

When I came along in 1991, they had already built a strong and eclectic musical tradition that was the foundation of my ongoing efforts to do the same. Ours is a congregation of varied tastes, backgrounds and musical memories.

I believe in honoring all of these while doing my best to curate and share with you what I feel is quality contemporary synagogue music. This includes commissioning new compositions from working composers.

It's been a while since I've employed an organ in our worship services. The last time I did so I was inundated with comments like "ugh, that made me feel like I was in church." We have experienced pretty much every instrument on our bimah for our services over the years, including the organ.

Personally, I love singing with a piano accompaniment. For the past seventeen years, we've enjoyed the baby grand piano that was gifted to us by Evelyn Lyons z"l. That piano is now in the Cantor's Study.

In its place on the bimah is a magnificent Steinway B grand piano, built in 1899, bequeathed to CBB by concert pianist Dr. Betty Oberacker z"l. It is being dedicated this June with a concert that includes cellist Jakob Omsky, violinist Nicole McKenzie, pianist Pascal Salomon, and myself.

The brown wood tones of this instrument match the warm colors of our Girsh-Hochman Sanctuary and its glorious sonic pallet will vibrate our very souls. ■



Introducing Rabbi Maddy Anderson: CBB's New Assistant Rabbi

By Barbara Greenleaf

CONGREGATION B'NAI B'RITH is thrilled to welcome Rabbi Maddy Anderson as its new Assistant Rabbi. For the last three years she has served as the rabbi educator and assistant director of Santa Barbara Hillel. In that role, she provided pastoral care and educational instruction for both UCSB and SBCC college students.

"Rabbi Maddy made an enormous contribution to Hillel in her time here. In addition to presiding over our Shabbat services, she assisted me in running the organization and, most importantly, provided support to students during a very difficult time on campus," says Josh Levine, Hillel's executive director.

"After the October 7th invasion of Israel, her empathetic, calming presence helped many of our students through personal crises as well as hurtful encounters of antisemitism. She will be missed," he adds.

During her time at Hillel, Rabbi Maddy says, she grew as a clergy person and an

administrator. Coming to CBB, she is excited about expanding her scope of service by interacting with people of all ages.

As she says, "I want to be there for families at every stage of life—celebrating *simchat*, guiding people through challenges, and offering support from beginning to end and all the moments in between. For me being a rabbi means being fully present and fostering an environment where people feel safe, cared for, and supported."

She points to two experiences on either end of the age scale that demonstrate her approach to pastoral care. The first took place at Camp Haverim, where she had brought her little dog for Shabbat story time. Upon seeing the dog, one of the campers shared that he had recently lost a pet.

Rabbi Maddy used that as a springboard for a discussion of grieving, which made the campers feel seen and heard. Another time she was summoned to the deathbed of an elderly man to

whom she had shown kindness at Hillel Shabbats. As he was non-communicative by that point, she sat by his side and prayed for him and with him. "That is the essence of showing up," she says.

Rabbi Madeline Anderson is an Indiana native. She obtained her Bachelor of Science in Global Leadership from the University of Indianapolis. After college she spent a year of national service with AmeriCorps at Habitat for Humanity, where she acquired construction and outreach skills before being hired in an administrative role.

From Habitat for Humanity she became the communications coordinator for the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation. Her stint there inspired her to enroll in Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, where she received a Master of Hebrew Letters and her Rabbinic Ordination. While studying at the historic Cincinnati campus, she served as a student rabbi at Temple B'nai Israel

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Above: Stephanie Lavine (right) with Renee Golan and Itzik Ben-Sasson at the Prime Timer's Hanukkah party in December 2024.

Prime Timers Connects CBB Members 50 and Above

OCTOBER 7 had a profound impact on me. In the days that followed, I felt an overwhelming need to be surrounded by fellow Jews—others who, like me, were grieving and seeking the comfort and strength of community. This experience inspired me to become more involved in our CBB community.

When I shared these feelings with Laura Habacker, she mentioned an opportunity to help revitalize the former Boomers group. I was immediately drawn to the idea and began exploring ways to bring people together through joyful, meaningful activities.

At the Shabbat table, I asked friends for ideas about what kind of events they'd enjoy in a reimagined Boomers group. Sitting to my right was David Fradkin, whose enthusiasm and creativity stood out.

I invited him to co-lead the newly forming group with me; soon to be renamed "Prime Timers." David's wife, Joan, quickly joined us as well, bringing her own wealth of creativity and vision to the team.

Since then, we've organized a variety of engaging events for our 50+ community, including a Havdalah potluck, a gathering in the sukkah, a Hanukkah party, happy hour at the beach, lectures, hikes, a documentary viewing, an architectural walk, and a staged reading of an original play. (For information about upcoming events please see our eNewsletter).

By offering a wide variety of events, the CBB senior community is brought together through our shared interests, new friendships are fostered and our lives are enriched. ■ —Stephanie Lavine

Introducing Rabbi Belle Michael



I'M EXCITED to introduce Rabbi Belle as CBB's New Director of Engagement and Community Programs. She brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to fostering Jewish engagement, leadership development, and community connection.

Rabbi Belle has most recently taught in our Melton Adult Education Program, and has been the leader of our major Tikkun Olam initiative: Our Family in Israel. Before that, Rabbi Belle served as the Campus Rabbi at California Lutheran University and was the founder of Kehilat Shira Hadash LA, an Israeli Cultural Congregation.

This spring, she was a big part of our Yom Hazikaron service, Yom Haatzmaut celebration, and the installation of the Wings of Livnat during the Mountains of Wisdom Weekend.

In this pivotal role, Rabbi Belle will work closely with our clergy, staff, and lay leadership to cultivate a vibrant, inclusive culture of participation at CBB. From building a robust volunteer network to creating innovative, multigenerational programs, Rabbi Belle will play a key role in ensuring our new Center for Jewish Life becomes a dynamic hub for Jewish learning and spiritual growth.

Rabbi Belle's vision is to create pathways for engagement, empowering members to connect with each other, contribute their talents, and deepen their Jewish journeys. With her leadership and partnership, I am confident that CBB will continue to thrive as a place of belonging, purpose, and community.

You can reach her at belle@cbbsb.org. ■

—Elizabeth Gaynes

Finding *Community* Through Tot Shabbat

By Steffanie Tinsley, PhD



WE FIRST TOOK our little one to Tot Shabbat when she was three months old. It was right before services moved over to Trinity Lutheran Church. She was sitting in the stroller, listening to the Cantor and Rabbi singing songs in a beautiful outdoor space at CBB.

and Rabbi singing songs in a beautiful outdoor space at CBB.

We watched as preschool and early elementary school-age children gathered around, sang songs, and listened to the Rabbi's story. People came up to us and introduced themselves with warm, understanding smiles.

I remember getting goosebumps. This is what I've wanted for my little girl, who is being raised in such a tumultuous time for the world and especially for Jewish people. The feeling of community. The feeling that she will be accepted; that my family will feel a sense of belonging.

Starting from a very young age, Jewish community was everything. I attended JCC preschool, Sunday School, Hebrew School, celebrated becoming a Bat Mitzvah and going through confirmation, was a Sunday school teaching assistant in high school, active in BBYO, and stayed in Jewish learning programs until I went to college.

My second family and most of my friendships at the most pivotal years of my life were through the synagogue. My family was very much a part of Jewish life within the synagogue. I was a part of a very big synagogue, and yet, I always felt connected. I knew early on that whenever I had children, I wanted them to feel connected to Jewish identity and community.

When my husband and I moved to Santa Barbara during COVID, it was important that I somehow maintained that connection. My family was in in Southern California, everyone



T-B: The Golan and Primack/Goldman families enjoying Tot Shabbat at Trinity Lutheran Church; and Tot Shabbat with Ron Golan holding the Torah, back at CBB this spring.



Above: L-R: Allison and Austin French with children Amelia, Arlo, Atlas and their grandparents; and author Steffanie Tinsley with her husband Russell and daughter Shira.

was isolated, and I wasn't sure how Jewish community and connection could be achieved, especially after having a baby girl in 2022. Although my husband is not Jewish, we are raising our girl in the Jewish tradition. I worried about how she would find Jewish community and make it meaningful for her.

Our daughter is now almost three and we regularly attend Tot Shabbat. Because she is not attending BHY, having Tot Shabbat and other CBB young family events is pivotal for us. When we pick her up from daycare on our way to Tot Shabbat, she enthusiastically tells whoever will listen that she is going to "Tot Shabbat!"

She eagerly holds up grape juice and Challah and loves to say "Amen!" after each blessing. She listens with earnest to the Rabbi's stories and is becoming more confident with each month that goes by. She loves eating the pizza and fruit, and running around after dinner.

And we are getting to know the other parents and finding commonalities based on Jewish Geography, shared values, and

being parents of young children. We look forward to being able to eat together as community and connect.

CBB, and specifically Tot Shabbat, has been a warm, inviting, safe place for us to go. They understand and are accommodating to crying, noise, restlessness, and toddlers asking "why?" There is an energy at Tot Shabbat that allows me to be present. The hypervigilance of being a Jewish person in this world, of being a first-time mom, melts like Shabbat candles, and I can just relax and be in community.

As we left Tot Shabbat recently, I heard my toddler humming something. This time, it wasn't "Mary Had a Little Lamb" or "We are the dinosaurs." It was "Bim Bam." As I smiled and sang with her, I realized this was a full-circle moment as we are laying a foundation for my daughter's connection to Judaism and her community. ■

Dr. Steffanie Tinsley is a trauma psychologist at UCSB as well as a wife and toddler mom.

CBB's Caring Community Connects Members in Time of Need

By Annie Kempe



THE CARING COMMUNITY offers our CBB members short-term support in times of need, providing temporary outreach and connection that enhances our sense of community and of being part of an extended family.

Our services are provided by a team of Caring Community “Angels” who reach out to help and connect with our congregants. We currently offer:

- Home delivery of a bag containing homemade vegetable or chicken noodle soup, for those who are unwell, healing from surgery or illness.
- Home delivery of a condolence bag to our members who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

- A friendly home visit (per member request) to check in and provide words of encouragement and support.
- One-time or periodic phone call(s) to check in on a congregant who may feel lonely, isolated, or might need to connect with someone.
- Help planning a Shiva gathering or minyan for a CBB member.

One of our most utilized and popular offerings is the home delivery of soup, via the Stone Soup program, led by Jackie Sereboff. A few “seasoned” Souper Chefs gather in the kitchen to create soup which is then stored for later delivery to our congregants.

According to Jackie, “the wonderful

thing about this program is that the soup provides a warm nourishing meal to someone in need. It is a truly beautiful gesture.”

She adds: “Making Stone Soup brings CBB Members together. I really enjoy being in the CBB kitchen and hearing the conversations among the chefs. By the end of the shift, I see volunteers exchanging emails and phone numbers. It brings community together. It is a very proud moment knowing that Stone Soup has more than one purpose.”

As the Caring Community Trustee, I think CBB’s soup is delicious, nutritious, and I believe it has strong healing

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L-R: Members of the Sisterhood Gift Shop and Caring Community in May 2025; Top: Caring Community leaders Lynn Altschul, Annie Kempe, and Diane Zipperstein at Mitzvah Day in 2023; Stone Soup organizer Jackie Sereboff (far right) with volunteers.



L-R: Rabbi Debi and Traci Lewis with Christy Harter at the Keshet Kickoff in 2024; Philip Prinz, Kent Hanson, Peter Ginsberg and David Landecker at Keshet's "Games in the Garden" in spring 2025; and CBB's Megan Lewis with Philip Prinz and Jeff Schuman at the Pacific Pride festival in 2024.

Celebrating One Year of Keshet

By Dr. Philip Prinz and Peter Ginsberg

LAST SPRING, CBB established a new LGBTQ+ group called CBB Keshet (*Keshet* is the Hebrew name meaning *rainbow*.)

A year later, we wanted to share the accomplishments and exciting future on the horizon for Keshet. With the invaluable help of our growing members, CBB clergy, and staff we are grateful for all that we have accomplished.

Keshet is dedicated to supporting all LGBTQ+ members of CBB—as well as their families and friends—by offering guidance and advocating for full equality, justice, and dignity within CBB and the broader Jewish community of Santa Barbara. Keshet launched in August 2024, at the first CBB Pride Shabbat led by Rabbi Brenner and featuring Rabbi Debi Lewis.

Shortly after, Keshet organized and ran the CBB Keshet Pride booth at the Pacific Pride Festival at Chase Park Plaza during Santa Barbara's Pride Weekend. Later in the summer, we hosted a delightful pool party and Havdalah service at the beautiful home of Zev Nathan and Neal Hiken.

We were also thrilled to host a special Sukkot event at the CBB Sukkah with a discussion led by Rabbi Belle Michael followed by a delicious and festive potluck dinner.

In November, we gathered to enjoy two wonderful LGBTQ+ films at the 2025 Santa Barbara Jewish Film Festival.

Since then, we've been in the process of aligning with Hillel's Keshet group to host activities and programs for our younger queer friends. This Spring, we hosted a playful "Games in the Garden" event at the home of David Landecker, and even enjoyed spending time with special guest, Rabbi Cohen.

We are continuing to plan forthcoming events, including CBB Keshet Pride Month in August, cooking classes, art classes, book discussions and more.

We'd love to have you join us to share ideas to make this an even more exciting year of growth for our group. We hope to enhance the Keshet experience socially, spiritually, intellectually and most of all exercising tikkun olam for the betterment of our community.

Now that we are returning home to our beautifully reimagined CBB campus, the sky is the limit with a beautiful LGBTQ+ Jewish rainbow to help guide us! All are welcome to join.

For more information about CBB Keshet please contact **belle@cbbsb.org**. ■

Peter Ginsberg, a longtime book publishing professional, joined CBB four years ago and enjoys singing in the choir. Dr. Philip Prinz is Professor Emeritus, San Francisco State University (SFSU), and he joined CBB in 2022.

Partnership with Kfar Aza Expands

By Rabbi Belle Michael

THE BOND BETWEEN CBB and our sister community of Kibbutz Kfar Aza has continued to flourish in the shadow of the terrible events of October 7th.

This past year, that bond was deepened through the contributions of CBB members, who collectively donated over \$75,000 to help our sister community rebuild a Healing Arts Center (or “Beit Melacha”) in their current home at Ruchama.

The goal of the new center is to leverage the therapeutic power of art to promote mental well-being and healing among the kibbutz members. Children, teenagers, young adults, and senior citizens work through memories and emotions on their path to recovery.

Additionally, our community participated in several other events over the past year, including a commemorative kite festival, quilt project, art sale, and Wings of Livnat building and installation.

We look forward to continuing to build this vital bridge of hope and solidarity between our two communities, a living testament to the power of mutual responsibility and heartfelt connection. ■



Oct 7th Kite Festival

THE CBB COMMUNITY gathered on the first anniversary of October 7th at Alameda Park in downtown Santa Barbara, where we built and flew kites, many of them inscribed with messages of peace. We were inspired to remember Aviv and Livnat Kutz and their three children—who made and flew kites every year on Simchat Torah—as well as all the others murdered by Hamas on Oct 7th.

T-B: Yifat Nahmias and Sissy Taran; a young kite flyer; messages of peace and Israeli flags; and Rabbi Belle Michael giving remarks at the Oct 7th commemoration in Alameda Park.



Quilt Project

OVER THE COURSE of two community quilt workshops in December and January, more than 60 quilters joined a special workshop led by Tami Rodrig, a local mixed media artist, to create a quilt for our sister community at Kibbutz Kfar Aza. After its completion, the quilt was brought to Israel and displayed at the new Healing Arts Center in Ruchama.

Above: An example of one of the quilted squares; and the completed quilt, which is currently on display at Kfar Aza’s new Healing Arts Center.

Art Party Fundraiser

HELD AT THE HOME of Nancy Barasch, this spring’s art party fundraiser enabled local CBB artists to donate art for purchase, with all proceeds going to Kfar Aza residents. We raised over \$4,000, and the event was enjoyed by a crowd of over 100 people who turned out for art and for delicious refreshments.

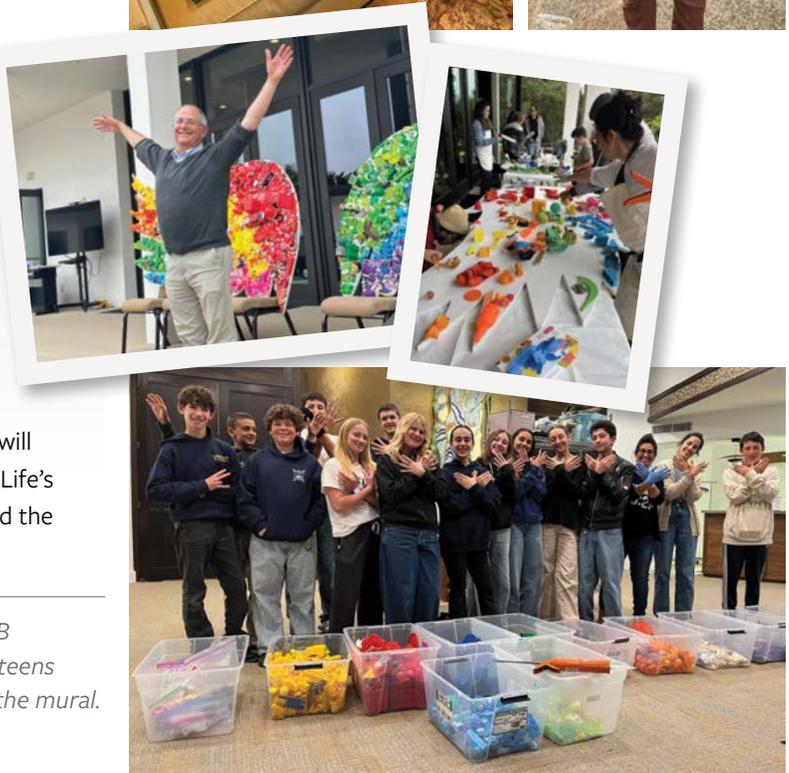
Below: Examples of some of the art works by local CBB artists; and Janet Malki outside the fundraiser with her new art.



Wings of Livnat

LIVNAT KUTZ, who was tragically murdered with her family in Kfar Aza, created the original Wings of Hope mural in the summer of 2023 as a symbol of unity and peace. To honor Livnat’s memory and those of all the victims of October 7th, we participated in creating a “Wings of Livnat” mural during our Mountains of Wisdom Weekend celebration in May. The mural will be mounted on the wall of the Center for Jewish Life’s staff patio, joining dozens of similar murals around the world.

Right: Rabbi Steve Cohen spreads his own wings; CBB community members work on the wings mural; CBB teens pose in front of sorted toys to be incorporated into the mural.



CBB Teens Discover Jewish Roots in Poland

Volunteering at the JCC in Krakow



Above: The group of CBB teens in front of Warsaw's Nozyk Synagogue, the only surviving synagogue in the city from before the Holocaust.



Eliza Emery

ONE OF THE MOST meaningful experiences from our trip was volunteering at the Jewish Community Center in Kraków. While we were there, we met members of the local Jewish community and learned more about their efforts to grow and rebuild.

The community is small, but the love and connection there were undeniable. One of the most impactful things they do is support Ukrainian refugees who have relocated to Kraków.

We helped pack dry goods, such as rice, lentils, polenta, and tea bags. They were packed into small bags so they could be distributed to families and people in need. It was simple work, but it felt incredibly important. We worked together, smiling and laughing, knowing we were doing something good.

A special moment was meeting a refugee named Victoria. She was so sweet and warm, and she took the time to talk to each of us. Hearing her story made everything feel more real, and reminded us of the impact of our work. We left the JCC that day feeling grateful, connected, and proud of the difference we were able to make.

Another highlight of our trip was visiting a Jewish high school in Warsaw. Some of the students were Polish Jews, others Polish kids attending the school for the academics, and some newcomers from Ukraine.

Talking with these students in small groups, we discussed our communities and our trip. Conversations included what it is like to go to an American high school, gummy bears with corn syrup vs. gummy bears with real sugar, what we do to spend time with friends, and how Polish McDonald's has extra menu options (though Polish Starbucks doesn't have as many drinks).

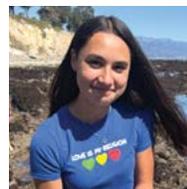
And, in the time we had together, we also discussed deeper topics, such as what it is like to leave your country, and to live in a country sharing borders with one at war.

Getting to know Polish culture through the eyes of our peers showed a different side of the country than we saw through museums. Despite living so far apart, all of us are at a similar point in our lives where we are developing our personalities and values, and having so much in common gave us more insight on how teens live in Poland.

We are so grateful to everyone who helped give us these opportunities. Volunteering at the JCC, getting to know the Polish students, and visiting Auschwitz and Birkenau were experiences we will never forget.

—by Eliza Emery and Micah Sage

A Visit to Auschwitz



Jaklynn Beth Kaufman Thompson

WHEN I FOUND OUT that we were going to Poland for our high school trip this year and that we were going to Auschwitz, I was faced with a mix of conflicting emotions.

"Am I going to be safe in a different country right now?" or "should I wear my star of David?" or "What am I going to feel when visiting Auschwitz?" I was still asking myself these questions the morning of the trip.

Leading up to the trip we prepared to visit Auschwitz by watching *Schindler's List*. Watching the very graphic scenes in that movie, then seeing where they were filmed in person, felt very surreal.

The day of our trip, I was confused about how I would feel when our tour started. I was so scared about going to see the place where millions of my people were exterminated.

I remember our guide telling us “No photos in this room” and then as I walked through the door frame, was met with a vast display case that covered an entire wall of the room and was deep and wide enough to fit multiple cars inside.

In the case there were mounds of real human hair. Hair which was cut from prisoners and profited off of by the Nazis. To see this was truly appalling, and it suddenly became more real for me. As the tour continued, I was met with more and more horrors and facts that made me sick to my stomach.

There was so much silence during our tour at Auschwitz. I could feel the sadness in the air.

After our tour, Rabbi Brenner lead us through the Mourner's Kaddish. He shared history on the tradition of standing during the prayer. He told us that before the Holocaust, it was only those in mourning who would stand while the prayer was being said.

But after the Holocaust, it was realized that not only had so many people lost family members in the Holocaust, but also,

Continued on next page



Above: The teen group on its last night at the Hilton in Warsaw—bonded, happy, and ready for home.

About Teen Travel at CBB

By Jen Lewis



TEEN TRAVEL IS INVALUABLE in building a strong community of Jewish peers. At Jewish Learning Programs of CBB, one of our goals is to connect our students closely to our community of Jewish teens and within this unique community, students develop a strong and positive Jewish identity.

We meet teens weekly at our Mechina (9th-12th Grades) or confirmation classes (12th only), but the students connect on a much deeper level when travelling—away from family and instead, depending on peers, teachers and clergy for needs and experiences, which forms tight bonds that last a lifetime. Teens gain greater tolerance and understanding of different cultures and Jewish practice, as well as an opportunity to boost their independence and explore new people and places.

At CBB, all teen travel prioritizes learning which distinguishes the Jewish experience. Currently, we are settling into a 4 year rotation cycle for our annual teen adventures.

1. New York City (2022): A modern Jewish American tour.

2. Israel (2023): Our Israel trip was cancelled in Dec. '23, but we are excited to try again in 2026-27, visiting our sacred homeland.

3. L'taken, Washington D.C. (2024): A social justice seminar for North American Jewish Teens - including 4 days of advocacy and action, including lobbying on Capitol Hill.

4. Poland (2025): We returned in April from a trip to Poland with 20 teens, led by Rabbi Daniel Brenner, Jen Lewis and Laurie Greene.

Above: Jen Lewis and CBB teens pose for a selfie in the Main Market Square in Kraków.

CBB Teens Discover Jewish Roots in Poland, cont.

whole families were wiped out. It became a choice to stand or sit, so that someone would say Kaddish for those families that were completely destroyed. It is our responsibility to say Kaddish for them.

Before we said Kaddish, Rabbi asked us to imagine the face of a victim that we saw on the tour and to let it fill our mind as we recited Kaddish. Being able to do this was unexpectedly meaningful to me and I will forever be grateful to Rabbi Brenner for leading us.

—by *Jaklynn Beth Kaufman Thompson*

Three Moments I Won't Forget



Micah Sage

As a member of Congregation B'nai B'rith, I had the privilege of joining a group of teens on a heritage trip to Poland; an experience that changed me in ways I never expected.

It was my first time leaving the country, and I knew from the beginning this wouldn't be a typical

trip. We were stepping into something deeper: a journey that would challenge our understanding of history, identity, and the responsibility we carry as Jewish people in the world.

There were so many wonderful moments on this trip, we laughed, explored, and built a deep sense of togetherness as a group. But at the heart of this trip was the Holocaust. And no amount of books or classroom lessons could have prepared me for what it felt like to actually stand in those places.

We visited the Jewish quarter in Krakow, the Warsaw Ghetto, Schindler's factory, and more. But the day we visited Auschwitz and Birkenau is the one I will never forget.

I'd seen black-and-white photos before—cold, gray, lifeless. But in person, what struck me most was the color: red brick buildings, green grass, a bright blue sky. It looked so normal. So alive. And that contrast made the horror even harder to grasp. It reminded me that atrocities don't only happen in places that look like nightmares. They can happen anywhere.

Inside one of the barracks, I noticed deep grooves in the stairs, worn down by thousands of people walking the same path. That tiny detail hit me harder than I expected. Every step had held a person, a story, a life. It made it all feel so heartbreakingly real.

There are three moments that will stay with me forever.

The first was a room in Auschwitz which displayed piles of women's hair, cut off before they were murdered. Some still braided, some tied back, one even looked like mine. It wasn't just hair. It was a piece of someone's identity. And knowing that the Nazis sold it for profit made it even more horrific. These victims, normal people, were dehumanized, turned into objects, forgotten.

The second was walking through a gas chamber. We were told how people were tricked, made to believe they were taking a warm shower. Instead, they were packed inside and killed. I stood in that very room, overwhelmed by the weight of what happened there. My brother was with me, and I couldn't stop thinking about the families who were torn apart. In the next room was the crematorium, where people were forced to burn the bodies of their own loved ones. That image will haunt me forever.

The third moment was at Birkenau. The gas chambers there had been destroyed by the Nazis to cover their crimes. All that remains now are ruins, and a pond. It looks peaceful, but we were told it holds the ashes of thousands. That pond is a grave. As we stood beside it and recited the Mourner's Kaddish, I felt something shift. We weren't just remembering history. We were standing for the ones who had no one left to say Kaddish for them.

Later, at Shabbat services in a small synagogue, I felt the most powerful feelings in the world, love and hope. As we stood together and sang, combined as one strong community, it emphasized the fact that Judaism didn't end in those camps. Our people survived. And we're still here, praying, singing, remembering. Not broken. Rebuilding.

So yes, I carry the grief. I carry the pain. But I also carry the strength of those who came before me. Their voices live on in me, and in all of us. We are still here. And we will never forget.

—by *Micah Sage*



Art is everywhere, you just have to look for it.

—Sofi Ilko



Authentic polish dinner in Krakow.

—Scarlet Akin



F is for friends who do stuff together.

—Ari Ludkovski



Jewish life being rebuilt from broken tombstones into a renewed Jewish community.

—Ayla Soicher



Our work isn't done. Remembering isn't enough—we must inspire empathy.

—Pessia Fygenson

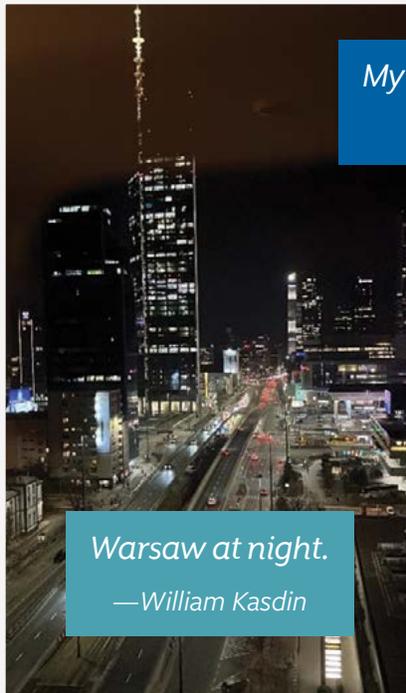
Waking up and falling asleep to the view was unforgettable—an absolute highlight of the trip.

—Leorah Wrench



Travelling to see Auschwitz brought me a memory I'll never forget—mourning the lives that were taken away and being grateful for all I have now.

—Mariana Bennahum



Warsaw at night.

—William Kasdin

My new Polish friend.

—Sabrina Avolio



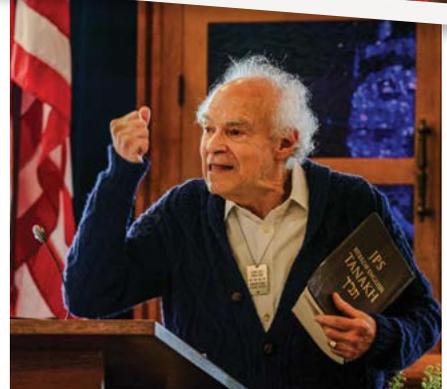
This is one of the many delicious meals I had on our trip.

—Adele Wrench

Mountains of Wisdom Weekend

May 2-4, 2025

HELD OVER THREE DAYS throughout the renewed CBB campus, the weekend marked Rabbi Steve Cohen's 40 years of service to the Jewish community in Santa Barbara. The weekend was filled with learning sessions by esteemed teachers, craft workshops, a Shabbat service with special guests, activities for families and children, communal singing and Havdalah, a concert by musician Glen Phillips, a Sunday Morning Live with the original founder and CEO of Moishe House (Mem Global), and more.







Wisdom on the *Wild* Side Gala

May 4, 2025

Held at the Santa Barbara Zoo, this year's gala capped the Mountains of Wisdom Weekend honoring Rabbi Steve Cohen. We are grateful to all of the sponsors and volunteer leaders for an extraordinary evening. To view a version of David Teton-Landis's remarkable tribute video, plus additional photos, an electronic version of the Gratitude Journal, the event playlist (approved by Rabbi Cohen) and more, visit cbbsb.org/rabbicohen.



Discovering Ruth Nebel's Story Through Her *Personal Archive*

By Isabelle Kim-Sherman



WHEN I FIRST OFFERED to help sort through CBB's old records and historical materials this past winter, I had a certain idea of the sort of thing I was going to find: bulletins, board meeting minutes, maybe a funny old picture or two of members of the

clergy and staff.

While I did find plenty of those, I also came across something much more unexpected: A box labeled *Ruth Nebel's Personal History*.

I had never heard of Ruth before, but as soon as I started looking through her belongings (presumably donated to the community by herself or her descendants), I realized that I was looking at an important piece of not only CBB history, but Jewish history itself. Among her personal articles were several copies of *The Story of Ruth*—a brief account of her early life and suffering and survival during the Holocaust.

Ruth was born in 1919, in a town in Germany called Marburg. She was raised in an Orthodox community and describes feeling a great deal of love for Jewish observance, and particularly the observance of Shabbat. "Shabbat was received each week as a special gift," she wrote. "The pace slowed, and there was time to really listen to each other."

Ruth's love of Shabbat, and how she saw it as a way of connecting with the people close to her, is a feeling that she carried with her through her time in the CBB community. She was well known for her role in the planning and organizing



of Oneg Shabbats, and particularly her preparations of snacks and treats for the festive events. In one particularly colorful account, she wrote:

See, I know that to the outside world, even if we speak different languages or wear different clothes or whatever, a Jew is a Jew. We celebrate, we suffer—together—a family.

So, come to the Oneg Friday night and say "Hello, Tanta Ruth." I'll give you a chocolate dipped strawberry that's delicious in Yiddish or German or Hebrew or English.

But as much as she loved celebrations, Ruth's life was indeed filled with suffering. Throughout her adolescence, the conditions for Jews across Germany were getting increasingly grim. She writes about the violence and oppression experienced by herself and her family. Finally, she was forced by the SS to leave the place where she lived and be taken to the Jungfernhof concentration camp in Riga, Latvia.

Over the course of a few short pages in *The Story of Ruth*, she detailed in plain words the worst atrocities imaginable experienced daily by herself and those around her. She talked about the maddening torture of starvation and, in one of the

few instances of companionship in her testimony, described “[sharing] every bite of food [she was] able to get” with her friend Sonya, whom she met during her time in transit between two camps.

When her concentration camp was finally liberated by Russian soldiers, Ruth and Sonya were sent to a town in Germany—Sonya’s hometown—which had been taken over by Americans who were able to help them find food and a place to live.

In one of the most impactful scenes from Ruth’s account, she and Sonya were given a house to live in that had once housed a Jewish family, but which was now inhabited by the family of a Nazi official. “I am Jewish,” she recalls screaming to the occupants of the house as she expelled them, “saying the same words to you that were said to my people four years ago.”

Among the personal artifacts I found in Ruth’s box of belongings, the one I was most excited to find was a small notebook, crumbling apart at the binding and stored within a small plastic sleeve. It was Sonya’s diary, written in 1946—during or immediately after when she would have been living with Ruth in the unrecognizable ruins of her old hometown.

The diary was written in German, but while I could not understand its contents, I could feel the immense significance

of the little document. I imagined how it could have come into Ruth’s possession; what significance it had for her for her to bring it with her across the Atlantic Ocean and to her new life in America.

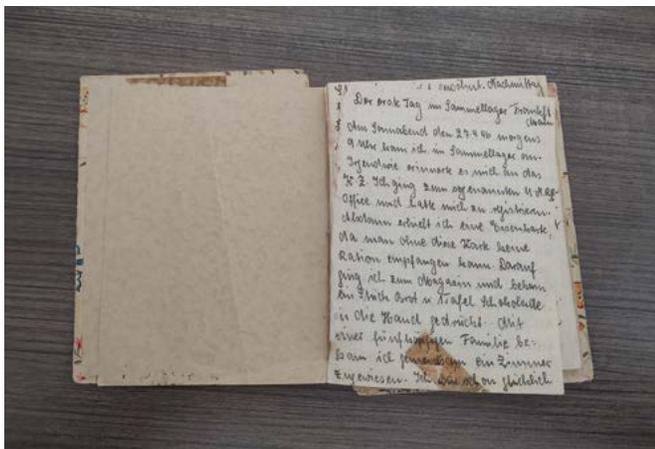
While living with Sonya and recovering from the physical and emotional trauma she experienced, Ruth met Hans Nebel, a fellow survivor of the concentration camps and the man who would soon become her husband. At the end of her account, Ruth describes her wedding as a day full of joy and beauty—“the first Jewish German wedding since the beginning of the war.”

Shortly after their wedding, Ruth and Hans decided to move to America, where they ultimately came to find their roots in Santa Barbara and at CBB.

While I found *The Story of Ruth* and her personal artifacts to be deeply affecting, one of the things that I found most inspiring about her was her passion and commitment to community, both before and after the war. Ruth had the firm belief that Jews must live in community with one another. It is a belief that she brought to our community, and a way that we can honor and remember her legacy. ■

Isabelle Kim-Sherman is a rising junior at Yale University, studying modern Jewish history.

“Among the personal artifacts I found in Ruth’s box of belongings, I was most excited about a small notebook, crumbling apart at the binding...”



Photos (above left): Ruth and Hans Nebel in their early years together; Ruth Nebel holding a copy of her story—a brief account of her early life during the Holocaust. **Above:** the 1946 diary of Ruth’s friend Sonya, written when both women were sent to Sonya’s hometown in Germany; copies of “The Story of Ruth.”

Continued from page 4

I think most people who know you would agree that you're a someone who is up for adventure. I'm thinking not just about your passion for hiking and nature, but about the many innovations you've created. What are you most proud of accomplishing here at CBB?

I feel proud that I have established an atmosphere of warmth and openness and being real. That has to start with the rabbi and it has ripple effects. I've been able to honestly share my love for Judaism, Jewish learning, prayer and community in a way that has been sort of contagious.

By being open about my love of Judaism, it's made it inviting for other people to explore and find their own relationship with Judaism. There are two times every week where I witness this in our community.

One is during the prayer service at our weekday Hebrew school classes with our 10-, 11-, and 12-year-olds. They're singing and they're all very proud and happy to be there. I see them engaging in prayer and I know we've made a foothold with the next generation.

The other is during Saturday morning Torah Study. It's gotten to be a pretty big group of 30-40 people. There are a lot of smart people in the room and everybody's right there and very engaged and very stimulated.

One thing I have always admired about your rabbinic leadership is that you make Judaism very accessible to everyone. You meet people where they're at with love, compassion, empathy, and care. What's one "rabbi moment" that really sticks out for you as one you won't forget?

The one that comes to mind is the Friday night service immediately following the Montecito Mudslide Debris Flow in January 2018. The sanctuary was completely full

and I was really conscious of needing to say some words that would be comforting and reassuring, but at the same time acknowledging the complete devastation in our community.

I vividly remember the Cantor leading us in Debbie Friedman's "Those Who Sow in Tears Will Reap in Joy." It was beautiful. Community, tradition, and spirituality all came together in a really healing moment and it was exactly what we all needed.

It seems like you have found those intimate moments you were seeking all those years ago, when you first decided to become a rabbi. Now, as you face your retirement and your status as Rabbi Emeritus, what's your vision for this next chapter?

I see this as a very major change in the life of the community and in my own life. I am planning to take some time away to allow for the transition to happen so Rabbi Brenner can comfortably settle in as the new senior rabbi without me casting a shadow.

I have several trips planned, including my 50th high school reunion, a trip to Israel and to Poland. I plan to write a book and practice creative expression through art and poetry. And I look forward to being part of the community.

How do you feel about it?

I have a lot of emotions. Mostly I'm excited. I'm also curious to know what it's like to not be in a leadership position because that's been a big part of my identity for most of my life. I expect to have some feelings of pain and loss too.

I love the word "curious," because that seems like a very open approach to this new season. I'm curious if you also have a vision for what the future of Jewish Santa Barbara looks like?

Santa Barbara will always be a small city that offers us a unique kind of connectedness that you don't find in a place like Los Angeles or Chicago or



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

New York. We have a great university and there's vast financial resources that make it possible to imagine more Jewish life here in Santa Barbara. But for me the answer begins with what might happen with our new Center for Jewish Life. I believe in the vision of this being a place that draws people together all week long. Not just for services, but for sharing food and community and song throughout the week and throughout each day.

If you could offer one piece of advice to Jews living here, what would it be?

To not be afraid of being Jewish. I know it feels like a scary time, but I think the world is always scary in some ways. To make the most of life is to be trusting—not to take unnecessary risks, but to be trusting of other people, of the Universe. It saddens me when I see people shutting down either personally or collectively out of a sense of fear. Don't be afraid to be Jewish—it's what keeps us stronger. ■

Continued from page 5

group to Berlin, and most recently leading a group of 20 CBB teens to Poland.

I feel particularly proud of the many teen trips I have led because it has allowed me to build a strong relationship with this vital group in our community.

Relationships are hugely meaningful to me as a rabbi. It has felt so natural integrating into this community in Santa Barbara and feeling like one of the community's rabbis. I remember a very distinct moment during my fifth High Holy Days with CBB.

I got up to welcome everyone and it felt different. I no longer felt like I was just a rabbi of CBB, but that I was a part of CBB and I just happened to be leading the service. I am proud of the trust I developed through my relationships in our community. There's a lot I'm proud of. I'm really glad to be here!

Can you tell me more about the Teen Israel Class you led this year and why it's important? What are future plans for it?

The Teen Israel Class was a partnership between a number of synagogues nationwide and American Jewish University to be able to offer high school students a college-level course and get credit for taking the class. It's a 16-week dive into the history, culture, and people of Israel.

Our high school students feel so compelled to show colleges

as much diversity in their high school time as possible that often comes at the expense of remaining connected at CBB, so our hope was that by providing an experience that benefits them in the future tangibly, we could also give them a meaningful class that would benefit their Jewish identities.

How do you plan to balance the work that's been so meaningful up to now, like working with our teens, with the other obligations of Senior Rabbi? And balance working with CBB's new Assistant Rabbi?

I mean, it's kind of the big question, right? I think it's important that as a rabbi, I get to continue to work in my passion areas as much as I work in the things that need to get done for the synagogue. It's healthy for CBB and for me.

I know Rabbi Maddy has plenty of things she loves to do and we will both find our way. There's a little bit of letting go and also a real commitment to not let go of the powerful relationships I've built with our teens and young adults.

I'm going to find the areas where I can step back and let Rabbi Maddy innovate, just as I was able to do seven years ago.

Sounds like the beginning of a beautiful partnership—like the one you've had with Rabbi Steve. After working with him and observing him lead CBB for the past seven years, what are you most excited about as you become our senior rabbi?

I'm really looking forward to taking what we're doing and bringing it to the next generation. I think Judaism changes from generation to generation, and I'm excited to explore what this new generation is excited about in Judaism.

I look forward to the community being a voice that tries to make sense of what's happening in the world and provide a Jewish lens for that, but also for empowering individuals to do their own Jewish learning and to re-engage with their Judaism in new and meaningful ways.

In the last 30 years, we've seen this huge resurgence of Jewish spiritual attunement and relationship, and I think that is only going to continue further. We have incredible lay leadership and good energy and I'm excited to help set our next priorities for the congregation.

You are certainly coming into this role in a position of strength! As our senior rabbi and leader not just at our synagogue but in our Santa Barbara community, what is your vision for the future of Jewish Santa Barbara?

Continued from page 27

There is a changing of the guard in our community right now with new leadership at the helm of Hillel, ADL, and great things happening at the Federation. The more we're out in public and show our pride, the more positive interaction we're going to have in the city.

I really see Santa Barbara having the resources and the opportunity to be a place that Judaism emanates from. We can pioneer new engagements of Judaism on a broader level. Wouldn't it be so cool if restaurants had a kosher option? Or if people traveled to Santa Barbara to find the places where Jews hang out?

What's one piece of advice you could offer to the rest of us as we learn how to navigate these interesting times we're living in?

Dig in! Our plate is full! We have so much that's offered to us in our community, in our city. We need to take advantage of everything we have here. Go to the beach, go hiking. Visit the museums and art galleries. Walk on State Street. And then come to the temple to go to services and learn something. God created this world full of beauty, and culture, and life. If we don't go and experience it, then we're not actually living fully as creation was intended for. ■

Hallie Avolio and her husband Paul



have been CBB members since 2006, and their three children have grown up in the community since attending

BHY Preschool. She served on the Board of Trustees for nine years and was Board President from 2012-2015.

Save the date for Rabbi Daniel Brenner's installation as Senior Rabbi over the weekend of December 12-14.

Continued from page 6

I have also reflected on the process last year of choosing our new Assistant Rabbi, Maddy Anderson. Our by-laws dictate that this is in the purview of the Clergy alone. However, Rabbi Daniel and Cantor Mark opened up the process to a large number of our members. We held town halls, home discussions, search committees, interviews, and dinners with candidates.

These involved dozens of members across a wide cross section of the congregation. In any organization the ethos of its leaders—their guiding beliefs, values, and practices—inevitably sets the tone for the whole organization. My goal is to ensure that anyone joining us for the first time as well as our long time members will find it easy to become engaged as both congregants and lay leaders, just as our Clergy engaged so many members in our Rabbinic search.

My thanks go out to all who have helped propel me and my family along this unplanned journey to a richer and more fulfilling Jewish life. If I started listing all who have inspired and encouraged me I would far exceed the number of words I have been allotted. So you know who you are—it is almost everyone I have come in contact with at CBB—thank you! ■

Continued from page 8

in Petoskey, Michigan and as a rabbinic fellow and then interim assistant director of the Cincinnati Jewish Community Relations Council.

Along the way, Rabbi Maddy earned six certifications in specialized areas of Jewish service that will make her even

more of a powerhouse as a mentor and counselor. Welcome, Rabbi Maddy! ■

Barbara Greenleaf is the author of 10 books and has been a CBB member for over 25 years.

Save the date for Rabbi Maddy Anderson's installation on Friday, October 10.

Continued from page 12

powers. A scientific study to prove this seems unnecessary, as our members' anecdotal feedback has been universally positive.

We are so fortunate at CBB to have such an intimately involved group of congregants, who are sensitive to one another's needs, who share life's ups and downs fully with one another, and who live their own sense of Judaism, all while gathered together.

Our Caring Community continues to evolve and adapt to our ever-changing needs and concerns. We welcome your ideas and thoughts as we focus on these small but meaningful mitzvot that keep CBB members feeling healthy, included, acknowledged and enveloped in our communal family.

We are pleased to hear from anyone who has needs or suggestions, or who may have concerns about a fellow congregant perhaps needing short-term assistance. Respecting our members' privacy and wishes is primary and we all keep those ideals in mind.

For more information about our Caring Community visit cbbsb.org. ■

Annie Kempe, who is a retired Occupational Therapist, is CBB's Caring Community Trustee. She is the author of A Good Knight For Children: C Henry Kempe's Quest to Protect the Abused Child.

Beit HaYeladim Preschool (BHY) & Jewish Learning Programs (JLP): 18 months to 18 years!

A Jewish educational and developmental journey, beginning your experience in a lifelong Jewish community.

WITH A FOCUS ON social emotional growth, BHY leadership and teaching staff provide their collective experience and knowledge of Early Childhood Education to facilitate and nurture the healthy development of young children through real life experiences.

As young as 18 months, we scaffold the children's learning, each day building upon their knowledge and understanding of the world around them. While giving special attention to their social and emotional development we foster each child's unique interests and passions.

We explore the environment through our senses, and discover the world experientially. With activities such as singing, reading, messy play, painting, building, jumping, climbing, talking, eating and collecting, we take safe risks, we test our limits and boundaries, and the limits of others, and we build loving friendships and relationships with each other and with the outdoors.

We give. We share. We hug. We grow.

We live Jewishly.

We celebrate Shabbat and other Jewish holidays and we learn from Jewish values. We begin a Jewish journey together, in community.

For more information about BHY and early childhood programs at CBB, please contact Jen Lewis, Director, at jen@cbsb.org



Jewish Learning Programs: 5 years to 18 years!

In Jewish Learning Programs, we work to create a strong community of young Jews who explore the stories, values, and practices of Judaism while forming a lifelong love of Judaism. We base our approach to Jewish education on four pillars: Relevance, Depth, Experiential Learning, and Relationships.

Relevance

Students learn best when the content matters to them, so we use students' interests as entry points into exploring Jewish knowledge!

Depth

Learning everything about Judaism would take several lifetimes. Instead of trying to cram the whole Torah into 13 years of education, our students learn select stories well, preparing them for a lifetime of Jewish learning.

Experiential Learning

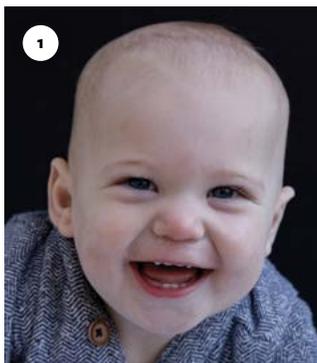
Students should be actively involved in learning. When students arrive for Netivot on Sundays or for Geshet or Mechina on Wednesday evenings, they're in for a few hours of cooking, crafting, performing, playing, and discussing!

Relationships

Most importantly, we in JLP focus on developing friendships and on fostering an environment of love to help students feel that they belong to a close-knit Jewish community!

For more information about Jewish Learning Programs, K-12 at CBB, please contact Leah Savage, Assistant Director leah@cbbsb.org or Jen Lewis, Education Director jen@cbbsb.org

Mazel Tov! *In Our Lives*



1

① To Linley & Carlyne Berger and older sister Goldie, on the birth of Cameron Berger, born on June 26, 2024.

② To Kimi & Gideon Cohn and older siblings Matilda and Elinora on the birth of Colette Joon Cohn, born on June 28, 2024.



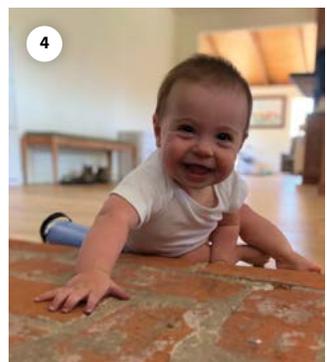
2

③ To Dana & Gabriel Gordon and older siblings Jasper and Lana on the birth of Logan Luke Gordon, born on June 28, 2024.

④ To Haley Meskunas & Adam Garber on the birth of Finn Meskunas-Garber, born on July 4, 2024.



3



4

⑤ To Meredith & Tyler Zicht and older sister Ruby on the birth of Lenora Charlotte Zicht, born on July 23, 2024.



5

⑥ To Stephanie Kotin & David Beltran and older siblings Hannah and Noah on the birth of Adam Carlos Kotin-Beltran, born on August 23, 2024.



6



7

⑦ To Sara & Bryce Uhrig and older sibling Kennedy “Collins” on the birth of Callahan Rhodes Uhrig, born on Sept 7, 2024.

Mazel Tov! *In Our Lives*

⑧ To Nikki & Zadok Sacks on older siblings Grady, Charlie, Maren on the birth of Adler Joy Sacks, born on Sept. 7, 2024.



⑨ To Heather Lorentz & Anil Mundra and older siblings Bodhin and Kian on the birth of Simryn Asha Thalia Mundra, born on Oct. 10, 2024.



⑩ To Leah Savage & Joseph McDaniel on the birth of Elinor Savage McDaniel, born on Nov. 8, 2024.

⑪ To Brenda & Jorge Rico and older brother Emiliano on the birth of Andre Julian Rico, born on Oct 29, 2024.



⑫ To Rebecca & Jaime Segundo and older brother Ethan on the birth of Elijah Plotkin Segundo, born on Feb. 11, 2025.



⑬ To Domonique & Daniel Melnick and older sister Eliana on the birth of Lior Filippo Melnick, born on Nov. 8, 2024.

⑭ To Serena Zahler & Bailey Hochhalter and older sister Shiloh on the birth of Price Ellis Hochhalter, born on Feb 21, 2025.



May Their Lives Be For a Blessing

June 2024 to June 2025

Irene Levy	Dottie Zola	Arthur Magat
Sheldon Rosenfield	Alan Goer	Susan Kurtz
Pearl Bloom	Sylvia Gross	Helga Carden
Ronald Sorgman	Jerry Sereboff	Margaret Arbuckle
Pearl Boxer	Judy Golub	Freddie Saxon
Edwin Rosenblatt	Frank Epstein	Herman Jacobs
Oscar Wasserman	Marlene Shann	Esther Rosenbaum
Maureen White	Leila Mariam May	Caroline Sweet
Michele Nelson	Ember William Sandoval	Barbara Winters
Aaron Shovers	Ruth Birdt	Arthur Samuel Kamlet
Alan Jacobs	Morton Rudin	Andy Saffir
Miriam Bresler	Irwin Bendet	Leonard Weinberg
Olivia Shapiro	Robert Levine	Rachelle Geiger
Leah Temkin	Alvin Sugarman	Beverly Abrams
Robert Brown	Norman Union	Ira Epstein
George Berci	Riva McLernon	Naomi Bollag
Gayle Rosenberg	Rita Lipman	Marlene Lavine

*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.



Children of the Covenant: Legacy Giving at Congregation B'nai B'rith

At CBB, we believe in planting seeds today so that future generations may reap the blessings of Jewish life tomorrow.

“It is not incumbent upon you to finish the task, but neither are you free to desist from it”
(Pirkei Avot 2:16)

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 Children of the Covenant, visit cbbsb.org/cotc. If you have questions, or would like to learn more, please contact Elizabeth Gaynes, Executive Director, at elizabeth@cbbsb.org or 805-964-7869 x111.

Above, right: Michael Tantleff signing a ketubah with Rabbi Cohen; Steve Amerikaner and Steven Pinsker; Louise Blumberg Wyner, Rabbi Cohen, Daniel and Mandy Hochman.



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

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 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
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Jessica* & Randy Glick
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 Don Wolfe
 Sara & Nick Woolf
 Louise Blumberg-Wyner & Alan* Wyner
 Albert Yenni*
 Rabbi Ira Youdovin
 *Of blessed memory

Leadership Giving

We are blessed to be a community where so many give generously of their time, talent, and treasure. Every contribution—whether it's showing up to volunteer, sharing a skill, or offering financial support—helps sustain the heart of Congregation B'nai B'rith.

We are grateful to those who are able to give beyond membership through leadership giving. Their generosity ensures that we can continue to uphold our open-door policy, where everyone is welcome and each person gives as they are able. We thank our Leadership donors:

Visionary

Anonymous (2)
Julianna & Tom Dain
Adam Diskin
Daniel & Mandy Hochman
Rachel & Tessa Kaganoff
Seymour & Shirley Lehrer
Peter Levine
Sara Miller McCune
Fredric & Lundy Reynolds
Michael & Nancy Sheldon
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Geof & Laura Wyatt
Etty Yenni
Charles Zegar & Merryl Snow Zegar

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(Anonymous)
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Steve & Cindy Lyons
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Joyce & Douglas Maskart
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Harvey & Janet Wolf
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Craig & Amy Zimmerman
Steve & Diane Zipperstein

Listing reflects all tax-deductible contributions during the 2024/25 membership year, as of June 15, 2025.

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

Clergy Discretionary Funds

Executive Director's Discretionary Fund

Repair the world

Tikkun Olam Fund

Mitzvah Day

Care for our community when they are in greatest need

Chevra Kadisha

Emergency Medical Relief

Support early childhood education and youth

Beit HaYeladim Preschool

Jewish Learning Programs

Temple Youth Group (SBORTY)

Support culture, arts, and music

Center for Jewish Life (CJL) Current Use Fund

CJL Enduring Impact Fund - Endowment

Gayle Rosenberg Fund (supports SML speaker series)

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 Elizabeth Gaynes, executive director, at elizabeth@cbbsb.org

Building Dreams *together*

“We Did It!”



Whether religious or secular, we are Jews! We gather, we converse, we argue, we question. We support education, inclusion and tradition. For almost 100 years Congregation B'nai B'rith has been the embodiment of these pillars in our community. The

Building Dreams campaign ensures the Temple will continue to thrive well into the future. Mazel tov!

—**Laura and Geof Wyatt**



We were honored to be part of Rabbi Cohen's vision for the future of B'nai B'rith - Building Dreams. It is a sanctuary where present and future generations can study, teach and cultivate their Jewish faith in a warm, welcoming and secure environment. —**Lundy and Fred Reynolds**



We joined CBB after Building Dreams was already underway and immediately got caught up in the excitement and anticipation surrounding the project.

We are thrilled to support

the effort and help the congregation realize its dream of more space for classes, gathering, studying, and meditating, among other pursuits. The possibilities for using the enhanced and expanded campus are endless and we can't wait to be part of all of it!

—**Rachel and Tessa Kaganoff**

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“Membership Makes a Difference!”

CBB is a Reform Jewish synagogue located in the gorgeous foothills of Santa Barbara. Incorporated in 1927, CBB’s roots began with just 15 families. Today we are proud that more than 800 diverse families and individuals call CBB their Jewish home.

Whether you made the decision to join the temple recently, or you are a longtime member, and everyone in between, your presence helps make CBB the strong, inclusive, and joyful congregation we are today.

Being a member of CBB is more than just a financial contribution—it’s a trusted relationship. In these challenging times, it is profoundly meaningful to be part of something that uplifts Jewish values, nurtures community, and brings light and purpose into the world. Together, we are building a spiritual home grounded in belonging, compassion, shared experience, and celebration.

We welcome everyone who wants to be a part of CBB’s community and we know that each person who walks through the door is unique. We have an open door policy, which means that most of our programs are open to the community. Getting involved is the best way to meet people, make friends, and discover what activities strengthen your Jewish identity and help you build community.

If you’d like to discuss membership, please call Laura Habecker at (805) 964-7869 x104 or email laura@cbbsb.org.

CONGREGATION B'NAI B'RITH

High Holy Days

2025

Saturday, September 13	Selichot
Monday, September 22	Erev Rosh Hashnah
Tuesday, September 23	Rosh Hashanah
Wednesday, October 1	Kol Nidre
Thursday, October 2	Yom Kippur

*We welcome you back to the
Girsh-Hochman Sanctuary at CBB.*

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.

