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A nondenominational synagogue center serving the Jewish community in the greater Chico area

## CBI Thanks You, Bruce Fite and Family!

By Anne Gottlieb

**B**ruce Fite, a real estate developer from Sacramento who is active in the local Christian community, recently made a very generous donation of \$50,000 to CBI's building fund. Bruce Fite's donation has injected life into a CBI capital campaign, an idea that CBI President David Halimi had put on hold in light of the current economy.

This issue of the newsletter kicks off a capital campaign drive to match Bruce's generous donation and use the proceeds to purchase land for a new CBI facility. Read David's column on page 3 for the specifics of the capital campaign goals. And continue to read this story to find the answer to the big question: Why is a Christian from Sacramento making a large donation to CBI's capital campaign for a new, larger synagogue?

The answer boils down to a personal philosophy of giving, a lifelong empathy for Jewish causes, a fondness for Chico, and a relationship with the extended Halimi family.

### Who is Bruce Fite?

Professionally, Bruce Fite is a veteran of nearly 51 years in the real estate industry. As a third-generation real estate



Bruce Fite, at CBI, above.

Below with Stan Gottlieb, David Halimi, Rabbi Danan & Pete Halimi

photos by Fran Halimi

developer, Bruce learned the business from the ground floor, helping his grandfather appraise farmland in the river bottoms of northwest Arkansas. Bruce's first real estate project on his own was a spec house in 1951, and he soon expanded from residential to commercial. Bruce and his wife Darlyne formed the Fite Development Company in late 1968, which has grown into one of California's most dynamic real estate development companies. Bruce was the first to pioneer the Highway 50 corridor, and his development influence spread to include the outlying areas of Woodland and Stockton. He's also been involved in a number of projects in Chico, including the Chico Mall

and Cal Skate. At the present time, Fite Development Company manages approximately 2,000,000 square feet and owns or controls vacant land in the Sacramento and Stockton areas in various stages of



story continues on next page

development.

### **Carrying on the family legacy**

For four generations, the Fite family has conducted business in both banking and real estate. Known as a strong force in the Sacramento area, the family is committed to maintaining a tradition of hard work, honest and well-planned business deals, and exceptional civic-minded community concern. Bruce followed his grandfather's footsteps into banking as well as real estate and is a founding board member of American River Bank. His community contributions include positions on the board of directors of Warehouse Christian Ministry, Rhema Bible Training Center, and Montevista Christian School. Bruce's son, Chet, is shouldering the family legacy as well. As President, Chet is involved in all areas of the company, including development, management, marketing, and financing of both existing and on-line projects. Chet is also the Chairman of the Board of American River Bankshares, the fourth generation of Fites to participate in banking.

### **War hero and pilot**

During the Korean War Bruce joined the Naval Cadets and flew with various branches of the military for over 15 years, finishing up as a decorated test pilot in Sacramento in 1968. Bruce now mentors Pete, who is an accomplished pilot himself, as he flies Bruce around. They have been known to take the short hop from Sacramento to Chico to join David Halimi for dinner at Crush downtown. (Bruce was actually one of the original investors in the building where Crush is located on Second and Broadway; David and Pete bought him out.) Pete says, "With Bruce in the next seat on the plane, I find a bit of Bruce's 'dare devil' in me, because I know Bruce can guide me through any situation."

### **The Halimi connection**

As some congregants know, David Halimi—who is one of nine children—has a large, extended family in Sacramento, including the family's matriarch, the charming and loving Aghdas Abadia Halimi. Bruce's relationship with the Halimi family first took root in the early 80s, when he engaged David's brother-in-law, Steve Waks, who is a lawyer specializing in real

estate exchanges, which begat a relationship about 15 years ago with David's brother Pete, who is now Chief Financial Officer for Fite Development Company, which led to real estate projects with David. Today, Bruce is present at most of the large family gatherings, including Passover this year, during which a fateful conversation with David took place.

### **David shares two dreams**

Between ritual food and glasses of wine at Passover, David shared with Bruce that he has had two long-time dreams for Congregational Beth Israel: a full-time rabbi and a new, larger facility. "I was pleased to tell Bruce that we have realized our first dream by being fortunate to find Rabbi Julie," said David. But his second dream, alas, was going to have to be put on hold given the current economic climate.

In response, Bruce shared with David his personal giving philosophy: "The more you give, the more God gives back to you." He also told David that, in addition to tithing to his Christian church, he regularly gives to a number of Jewish causes. He takes to heart, he told David, the Bible's admonition to protect the Jews. "Let me know when you kick off your capital campaign."

### **Three days later**

A man of action, Bruce decided not to wait. Three days after David's conversation with Bruce, his brother Pete called to tell him that Bruce wanted to donate \$50,000 to CBI.

A modest and self-effacing man, Bruce downplayed his donation at a recent dinner held at Pete Halimi's home to thank the Fite family for their generosity. But he did answer one last question. Why Chico? "I like to give where it can make a difference."

### **Todah Rabbah – Thank You Very Much**

Thank you to the following businesses that donated items to our Bagel Brunch and helped make it such a big success!

Brooklyn Bagels

Java Brava

Peet's Coffee

Pita Pit

## From our President

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By David Halimi

Dear Congregants,

It is with a great feeling of euphoria that I write you this letter as my CBI presidency nears the end after three years. No doubt, the euphoric and exciting feeling is due to the awesome news featured on the cover of this issue of CBI Newsletter.

The Fite's extraordinary and generous gift to our congregation is definitely one of the most exciting and significant news in CBI's 92-year history. This amazing act of kindness happened solely because of who Bruce Fite is, and how he lives his life.

The Halimi family and Fite family began their close personal relationship soon after my younger brother, Pete, began working for Fite Development Company 15 years ago. It didn't take long before Bruce and Darlyne became part of the Halimi extended family and a welcomed addition at the family celebrations. As we always do, Fran and I, with the boys, went to Sacramento to celebrate the first night of Passover with my family, which included Bruce and Darlyne Fite. I always look forward to seeing the Fites and particularly enjoy my visits with Bruce. I believe Bruce is truly a genuine gem and a role model. He is always easy to talk to, pleasant, genuine, modest, full of wisdom, and an exemplary human being who exudes a very positive energy that lights up the room.

During my visit with Bruce that first night of Passover, I told him why we couldn't be in Sacramento for the second night of Passover due to our commitment to our congregational community Seder. Bruce then asked me about how our congregation was doing. I was pleased to share CBI's progress and dreams with Bruce. In particular, I told him that since I started serving on the CBI board over 22 years ago, we had two major dreams: a full-time rabbi who lives in our community and a larger, newer building in a better neighborhood. Bruce saw the delight in my eyes when I shared with him our good fortune of finding Rabbi Julie that led to the realization of our first dream. He also heard the disappointment in my voice as I shared with him that we have had to put on hold our second dream, and delay our capital campaign, due to the current financial climate. Without any prompting, and purely from the heart, Bruce said to me: "You let me know when you kick off your capital campaign, I would like to help."

I knew of Bruce and Darlyne's generosity and, in addition to many other charitable contributions, their belief in supporting Jewish causes. But what came next did catch me by surprise. Bruce, in the tradition of being a leader and not a follower, didn't wait for us to kick off our capital campaign. In fact, he didn't wait long at all, regardless of the current economic climate. Bruce has always been known as what is called, in the real estate industry, a "rain maker." He doesn't wait for things to happen, he makes things happen. Only three days later, Bruce with consultation and full support from his wife, Darlyne, decided to kick-start our dream of a new and larger Synagogue with a very generous gift of \$50,000.

I call Fite's act a "gift" rather than a "donation" because Bruce has really given us a lot more than a substantial amount of money. He has given us a renewed sense of belief that we can realize our other dream. He has shown that he believes in our dream and has energized us to dream together. I believe, when you dream alone, it is only a dream, but when we dream together, it is the beginning of a reality.

I want us to show that we believe in our dream as much as Bruce does. The challenge for us, together as the Jewish community, is to match Bruce's contribution in order to purchase a land to house our future Synagogue. I have made that promise to Bruce and believe our community can accomplish this task. To get us started, I am suggesting the following "formula" to raise our matching \$50,000:

Five families at . . . . . \$3,000 = \$15,000

Ten families at . . . . . \$2,000 = \$20,000

Fifteen families at . . . . . \$1,000 = \$15,000

Total Matching Amount . . . . . \$50,000

The contributors to the "Matching Fund" will be named on a plaque to be placed in the lobby of our new building. Please contact me to contribute at any of the proposed levels. Of course, any contributions to the building fund will be greatly appreciated and get us that much closer to realizing our goal. I will also be proposing "naming opportunities" for various parts of the new building for those who desire to leave a lasting legacy.

I am reminded of the concept often adhered to in business and in life, which states: knock on every door, you never know which door will open unto you. In this case, I didn't have to knock. I was merely walking by and Bruce opened the door and invited me in. However, we may need to "knock" on few doors. I encourage you to reach out beyond your immediate family members and include your extended families to meet our goal. I hope we can follow Bruce's example; he gave not because he was asked, rather because of who he is and what he believes. Let us follow Bruce's footsteps and give because we believe.

In parting, I want to sincerely thank the CBI board members for their invaluable service to our congregation and the greater Jewish community. I extend my personal appreciation to each and every board member for selflessly giving of your time and efforts. CBI has progressed well during your service (please attend the Annual Membership Meeting on Friday, June 19th, for details). I consider it an honor and a pleasure to have served as the president of such a dedicated and capable board for the past three years. I will continue to serve on the board as the past president and, as part of a "deal" with next year's nominee for President, I have accepted to chair the Capital Campaign, which is now officially up and running – thanks to Bruce and Darlyne Fite!

Shalom,

David Halimi

## Natan Sharansky Visits Chico

Former Soviet prisoner-of-conscience and Israeli cabinet member Natan Sharansky spoke at Chico State's Harlen Adams theater on May 4th. His visit was a last-minute opportunity, sponsored by the Jewish National Fund's "Caravan for Democracy," and organized in six days by Professor Michael Leitner. In addition, a number of CBI board members and others joined Sharansky for a kosher lunch at Chabad House. Sharansky was introduced by Rabbi Julie Danan, who mentioned her college involvement in the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry. Thank you to Chico State Hillel, Chabad, Sam Edelman and David Halimi for their assistance with this program.



Natan Sharansky (left), Rabbi Mendel Zwiebel, and Professor Michael Leitner (standing). Photo by Andrew Sabersky

## Mazal Tov, Graduates

### Congratulations to all of our graduates and their families.

Our Rabbi Dr. Julie Hilton Danan received her Ph.D. in Hebrew Studies at the University of Texas in Austin on May 23rd.

Liora Danan graduated from Yale with an M.A. in International Relations on May 25th.

Dr. Elisheva Danan receives her M.D. from UC Davis on June 6th. She has been accepted into a one-year Master in Public Health program at UCLA. Her fiancé Peter Huckfeldt just accepted a job with Rand, in Los Angeles. He is receiving his Ph.D. in Economics from UC Davis in June.

Dr. Abraham Sabersky received his M.D. degree on May 16th from the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California. Shortly thereafter, he was commissioned an active-duty Captain in the U.S. Army. In early June Abe and his new bride will leave for Pittsburgh, PA, where he will begin a 7-year neurosurgery residency at Allegheny General Hospital.

Naomi Straus will be attending UCLA Law School in the fall.

Jessica Leitner is graduating from Chico High School and in the fall will attend the Honor's Program at Chico State.

Arielle Leitner is graduating from Chico State Magna Cum Laude with a B.S. in Mathematics. She was accepted into the Ph.D. program in Mathematics at the University of California, Santa Barbara and was offered a teaching assistantship position.



Ari Edelman is graduating from Chico High. He spent 4 years in the school's ACT (Applied Communication Technology) program and the film noir movie he wrote, directed, and edited this year won ACT Academy Awards for Best Dialogue and Best Film. He is continuing his study of film next year in

the Michael Eisner Film School at California State University, Northridge.

Jordan Cottrell was accepted into virtually every school she applied and to all her preferred programs. She will be attending Bryn Mawr College in the fall.

Jennah Stillman is graduating from Paradise High School, having completed her senior year at CSU Chico, in the University Connection program. A highlight for her was attending the inauguration of Barack Obama, through a program called Presidential Classroom. She will attend the University of Oregon.

Sarah Einhorn is graduating from UC Santa Cruz and will be attending Golden Gate University Law School in San Francisco.

Aaron Einhorn is graduating from Chico High School. He will be going to College of the Siskiyous in Weed.

Samantha Levine is graduating from Chico High School and will attend UC Irvine.

Rafael Frankel received a Master of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University on May 15, and was accepted into the Doctoral program at Georgetown.

More Graduations? Send them in for the August Issue.

## From Our Rabbi

Rabbi Julie Hilton Danan

### Larger than Life

This has been a spring for meeting larger-than-life individuals here in Chico. Last month I wrote about a local hero, “righteous among the nations” Bert Schapelhouman, who as a teenager in Holland helped to rescue Jews and combat the Nazis, only to be captured, tortured and imprisoned in a concentration camp. His life will be the focus of a special unit on “Heroes” at Religious School next year, under the guidance of Carol Edelman. At our Yom Hashoah service, we also heard of the larger-than-life deeds of Leizer and Zenia Bart, parents of Michael Bart, who authored a memoir of their lives, *Until Our Last Breath*.

In April our religious school was recognized by Mayor Ann Schwab for supporting “Pennies for Peace,” a children-to-children charity which supports the schools built by Greg Mortenson, a former mountain-climber turned educational activist, who has dedicated his life to building schools for impoverished girls and boys in Central Asia. Our religious school will continue to support this *tzedakah* project in the coming year.

The parade of larger-than-life figures continued when Natan Sharansky made a last-minute special visit to Chico, where he spoke at Chico state on May 4th (see photo, opposite page). Sharansky spent nearly a decade in the Soviet Gulag and emerged triumphant, as a challenging leader and thinker on the Israeli political scene. He has just been nominated to head the Jewish Agency.

Each of these heroes, *tzadikim* and “larger-than-life” figures risked his life for his beliefs and values, and composed a life-story of epic proportions. Most of us will never be asked to face the dangers and hardships that they faced. However, we are all called upon at some times in life, to decide when we want to live life just a bit larger ourselves. The Torah is all about choices. Think of the people who founded Congregation Beth Israel, and those who purchased our current building and improved it with their own hard-earned donations and their own labor. Those people thought beyond themselves, and chose to



be larger than life. Thanks to them we experience the warm, thriving community that we have today.

Enter D. (David) Bruce Fite, a Sacramento builder and developer and a devout Christian, who has long been a friend of the Jewish community and supporter of Israel. With his wife, Darlyne, Bruce made the amazing decision to donate \$50,000 to Congregation Beth Israel, in the form of a challenge grant to help us to buy land

and jumpstart our dreams of a new congregational home. A long-time friend of the Halimi extended family, Bruce was participating in the Seder with the Halimis in Sacramento when he was stirred by David’s description of our dream of a new building in which our community can truly grow and flourish for generations to come. The Fite’s donation was an act of *tzedakah*, an act of extraordinary generosity and an act of faith in our future.

The challenge to us now is to ask: Can we also be larger than life? Most of us won’t be asked to be heroes like Bert Schapelhouman or Natan Sharansky. But each of us is challenged at a time like this to look in our hearts, examine our values, and consider the importance of our Jewish community. While we love our heimish *shul* on Hemlock Street, we can also imagine how our community can grow and thrive when with the facilities of a larger building in a safe and attractive neighborhood, with plenty of room for all of our services, dinners, classes, activities...and even parking!

When we realize that a couple from another city, of another faith, reached out to us and proffered an extraordinary gift and blessing out of the blue, we have to ask ourselves: Will we rise to the challenge, will we also choose to be larger-than-life? Will we be able to do the *mitzvah* of *tzedakah* and *as an entire community* be able to match the donation of one generous couple? If we do so, we will be laying the foundation for generations to come of Jewish life in the California North State. The choice is ours.

Blessings for a wonderful summer,  
Rabbi Julie Hilton Danan

## Sisterhood/Haverot News

By Donna Greenberg

*“Remember your sisters, the ones here before you...Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah...They trust you to continue what they left in progress...And hope that you always will know that all of your sisters have something to give you.”* (“Remember Your Sisters,” Jan Poscovsky, Congregation Beth El, Missouri City, TX; *Covenant of the Soul, Women of Reform Judaism*, p. 101.)

**Summer is just around the corner** and so is the end of our Sisterhood/Haverot year. My how the time has flown! We have had a wonderful and successful year with a variety of programs and fundraisers including our membership kickoff, potluck in the sukkot, Glazed Creations, Jewish meditation, Sisterhood Shabbat, and the Bagel Brunch. We have donated to variety of causes, purchased a projector and screen for CBI, we have played mah jongg and attended movies—we were a busy group of ladies but we always had fun. We hope those ladies who are not members will decide to join in the fall. We would hate for you to miss all of the fun!

**On April 26th six Sisterhood ladies** arrived early to clean up both the front and back areas of CBI in preparation for the Bagel Brunch. We weeded, trimmed, spread hay for mulch and raked, as well as hauled away all of the many bags of debris. What a difference a few hours of clean up can do for a yard. Thanks to Fran, Karen, Sheri, Nitsa, Laurie and myself for all of the hard work.

**Please mark your calendars for the end of the year program.** You should have all received an invitation to lunch on June 7th at the Sierra Nevada Brewery. We will have a short program reviewing the past year, inducting our new board and brainstorming for ideas for next year. This has been a fun and productive year and I hope many of you can attend the luncheon — the food and, of course, the company will be fantastic. RSVP's are required and are needed by May 31st.

**A rainy Saturday turned into an overcast Sunday** and our biggest fundraiser of the year, the Bagel Brunch, on Sunday, May 3rd, was a great success. At the last minute

we were able to have a tent installed in case of rain. Those hardworking men who installed the tents in the rain made quick work.

A great **BIG THANK YOU** to Fran Halimi for organizing this enormous event; she makes it look so easy. Also thank you to everyone who helped with this very successful fundraiser including those who donated items. I am afraid if I try and name everybody I will leave someone out. The food was delicious: lox, cream cheese, bagels, herring, fruit, eggs, hash browns, olives, veggies, mouthwatering desserts. Yumm! Sisterhood is blessed with great bakers! And don't you just love the new aprons! If you were not able to purchase one at the Bagel Brunch, we will be bringing them to the luncheon on June 7th. They are only \$15 and are one of a kind collectible item.

**Although we have come to the end of our year,** Sisterhood/Haverot is planning another event. We are happy to announce another Jewish Meditation Day in June. The exact day has not been decided but as soon as the day is known an announcement will be sent to all Haverot/Sisterhood members.

**Is there anyone who enjoys sewing and embroidery** who would like to sew and embroider the leaves for CBI's Tree of Life? You do need an embroidery attachment on your sewing machine. Contact me if interested at drg@mv.mv.com or 891-6439.

**Kudos to the board for an excellent year,** I enjoyed working with all of you. Thanks Fran, Pam, Bev, Laurie, Sheri and Jona. And welcome to the new board: I will stay on as president and will be joined by new board members Kristy and Sue and returning board members Bev, Fran, Pam and Laurie.

Shalom and enjoy the summer,  
Donna



**John A. Kremer, M.D.**  
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### Sisterhood Upcoming Events

**End-of-the-year Brunch..... June 7**  
**Jewish Meditation Day ..... June (TBA)**

### Sisterhood Board

President .....Donna Greenberg  
Treasurer .....Fran Halimi  
VP/Interest Groups .....Pam Dakof  
Past President .....Bev Paull  
Members-at-Large .....Laurie Howard, Jona Pressman,  
Sheri Trimboli

**CBI Calendar**

June 2009 ☆ Sivan - Tamuz 5769

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 3:30 Religious School Picnic at 5 Mile 7:30 p.m. Doug Cotler Grammy-winning singer and songwriter Doug Cotler will perform at Congregation Beth Israel. This is a FREE "Member Appreciation" Concert and everyone is welcome.	1	2	3	4	5 NO Service	6 10 a.m. Torah Service
7 11 a.m Haverot Lunch Haverot Sisterhood Lunch at Sierra Nevada	8	9	10 5:30 p.m. Ritual Committee Meeting	11	12 7:30 p.m. - Shabbat Services	13 10 a.m. Torah Service
14 Flag Day	15	16	17 11 a.m - Sages' Brunch Sages meet at the Country Waffle on Cohasset at 11 a.m. Board Meeting 7 p.m.	18	19 7:30p.m. - Shabbat Services and General Meeting	20 10 a.m. Torah Service and blessing newest Jews-by-Choice
21 Father's Day	22 Rosh Hodesh	23 Rosh Hodesh	24	25 Summer Schedule	26 NO Service	27 9a.m. Shabbat Hike at Hooker Oak
28	29	30	1	2	3 NO Service	4 NO Service Happy 4th!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
					NO Service Happy 4th!	NO Service Happy 4th!
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
						10 a.m. Torah Service
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			11 a.m. Sages' Brunch Sages meet at the Country Waffle on Cohasset at 11 a.m.  Executive Board, Time TBA		6:30 p.m. Shabbat in the Park Shabbat Potluck in the Park at 5-Mile Rec Area access via Centennial Drive	NO Service
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
			Rosh Hodesh Av			10 a.m. Torah Service
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
				Tisha B'Av		10 a.m. Torah Service

## Shabbat Services & Programs for June & July

CBI celebrates Kabbalat Shabbat on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. often accompanied by instrumental music. An Oneg Shabbat follows. Shabbat Saturday morning services generally begin with a brief guided meditation. The first hour of the service consists of prayer; the second hour is a Torah reading and a Torah study. About noon we have a Kiddush and socialize over a light lunch. Summer schedule varies. Please note changes below.

<b>Friday, June 5</b> <b>Light Candles at 8:14 p.m.</b>	<b>NO Service</b>	<b>Enjoy Shabbat at Home</b>
<b>Saturday, June 6</b>	10 a.m.	Torah Service Parashat Naso Torah Service led by Helene Ginsberg. Steve Margolin will chant Torah. Kiddush is sponsored by the Lewkowicz family.
<b>Friday, June 12</b> <b>Light Candles at 8:18 p.m.</b>	7:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg is sponsored by the Sisterhood.
<b>Saturday, June 13</b>	10 a.m.	Torah Service led by Rabbi Danan Parashat Ba'ha'lotecha. Kiddush sponsor needed.
<b>Friday, June 19</b> <b>Light Candles at 8:20p.m.</b>	7:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat & <b>CBI General Meeting.</b> Oneg sponsored by the Mulcahys
<b>Saturday, June 20</b>	10 a.m.	Torah Service led by Rabbi Danan Parashat Shelach-Lecha We will <b>bless our newest Jews-by-Choice.</b>
<b>Summer Schedule Begins – One Event per week most weeks; please check schedule! All July Onegs and Kiddushes are POTLUCK.</b>		
<b>Saturday, June 27</b>	<b>9 a.m.</b>	<b>Shabbat in the Park!</b> Join Carol Edelman at Hooker Oak parking lot for an easy hike through our city park.
<b>Saturday, July 11</b>	10 a.m.	Torah Service Parashat Pinchas Service led by Keren Carter Steve Margolin chants Torah <b>Potluck</b> Kiddush
<b>Friday, July 17</b> <b>Light Candles at 8:16 p.m.</b>	6:30 p.m.	<b>Kabbalat Shabbat Potluck at 5-Mile</b> Recreation Area, access via Centennial Drive.
<b>Saturday, July 25</b>	10 a.m.	Torah Service led by Keren Carter Parashat Devarim Shabbat Chazon <b>Potluck</b> Kiddush
<b>Thursday, July 30 Tisha B'Av</b> Fast commemorating the destruction of the Holy Temple ( No Program)		
<b>Saturday, August 1</b>	10 a.m.	Torah Service led by Rabbi Danan Parashat Va'etchanan Kiddush sponsored by the Danans

**Thank you** to all who sponsored Kiddushes or Onegs in the month of May: The Dakofs, the Naimans, the Sisterhood, the Stillmans, an anonymous donor, the Confirmation Class Families and the Danans.

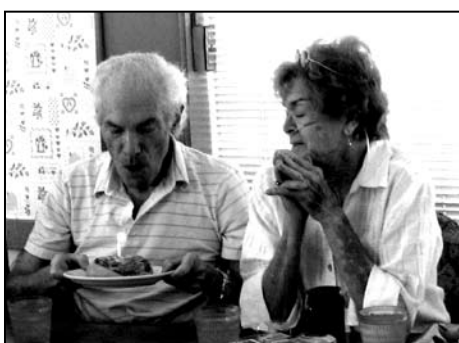
Thank you also to our band and musicians for providing music for various services in May.

If you would like to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or any special event with the community, **please sponsor a Friday night Oneg or a Saturday Kiddush.** Either bring your own treats or make a donation of \$25 (Saturday Kiddush, \$50). Call the CBI office for more information. 342-6146.

## CBI Sages Need No Seasoning

By Jim Jessee

One of the pleasures of retirement has been that Nelda and I can join the CBI Sages for Brunch each month. What a terrific group of people — each with their own unique story. The dialogue is lively, to say the least, and they always bring their own spice to the conversations. The Sages meet at the Country Waffle on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, and we well fill the room. The food is delicious and our waitress Sandy knows everyone of us, as well as our favorite drinks and orders. She treats us all wonderfully. Come, you will enjoy.



From top: Jim Jessee and Selda Arnoff; Selda and Lou Arnoff; Ted Zuckerman; Inge Schmidt, our waitress Sandy, Martha Fishkin, Selda and Lou Arnoff; Jean Corwin watches as Norman blows out his birthday candle.

## CBI Summer Schedule

Summertime and the living is easy here in Northern California. Our CBI Shabbat schedule slows down to one event per week from the last weekend in June until August 21st (with a break the weekend of July 4th). It's also a time for some different types of Shabbat events, including: a June 27th Shabbat walk in the park with Carol Edelman (9:00 a.m. at Hooker Oak) and a July 17th Shabbat Potluck dinner at 5-Mile Recreation Area, at 6:30 p.m.

## CBI General Meeting, with Grant Q & A and Ice Cream Social!

Join us Friday, June 19th, 7:30 p.m. after our Kabbalat Shabbat service for our annual General Meeting. This one will be especially exciting as we not only vote on our board of directors and review the achievements of the past year, but we will also learn about our exciting challenge grant from D. Bruce Fite (see page 1). This is your chance to come, ask questions and learn about this fantastic gift and opportunity for our congregation. To top it all off, we will have an ice cream sundae Oneg Shabbat.

## Celebration of Abraham Interfaith Picnic

Join the fun on Sunday, June 14, 1-4 p.m. at Congregational Church, 1190 1st Ave., when "Celebration of Abraham" sponsors its annual interfaith summer picnic. Bring a favorite vegetarian dish to share and enjoy games, music, food and fellowship. Questions? Call Nancy (342-4913) or Mary (343-4948).

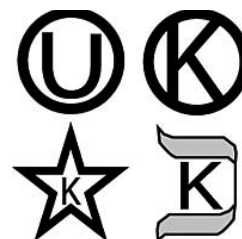
## Mark Your Calendars for August Events

### August 21st 6 p.m. Back to Shul *and School*: A Mishpachah Shabbat Celebration

We celebrate the beginning of Religious School and the resumption of our full Shabbat schedule with a Mishpachah service, catered dinner, and ice-cream dessert.

### August 29th B'nai Mitzvah of brothers Ryan and Casey Rubinoff.

## Kosher Co-op Buying at Trader Joe's



Our local Trader Joe's store can offer kosher meat and chicken, but due to low demand the selection is usually limited. The good news is that we can put together group orders for a variety of kosher meat, chicken and turkey selections, and receive them within a few days. If we order by the case (or nearly a case) we can get a much better selection. Contact Rabbi Danan if you would like to take part in kosher group orders from Trader Joe's.

## Donations

We would like to thank the following *nadvanim*.

### Betty and Charles Hilton Fund

Avraham Danan & Julie Hilton Danan: In memory of Charles and Betty Hilton

### Building Fund

Bruce and Darlyne Fite: Matching Gift

### Tree of Life

Louis & Selda Arnoff

Stillman Family: In honor of Mirra's Bat Mitzvah

### Gert Lenner Fund

Matthew & Isabel Fine: For a speedy recovery of Eveline Ferreira

Matthew & Isabel Fine: In honor of Mirra Stillman's Bat Mitzvah

Matthew & Isabel Fine: In honor of the contributions of the Sisterhood

Shirley Puritz: In honor of Loretta Steinke

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Al & Sandy Abrams

### Rabbi's Scholarship Fund

Al & Sandy Abrams

### Religious School Fund

Joel & Susan Mintzes: In honor of Mirra Stillman's Bat Mitzvah

*If I am not for myself, who will be for me?*

*And if I am for myself alone, what am I then?*

*And if not now, when?*

### Mazal Tov

To Andrew Sabersky and Helene Ginsberg on the May 16th marriage of their son Abraham Sabersky to Kati von Rajcs of Moreno Valley, CA.

### Anniversaries in June and July

Mark & Helen T. Levine .....	June 11
John & Bonnie Mitchell .....	June 18
Michael & Wendy Diamond Mulcahy .....	June 18
Michael & Beverly Paull .....	June 19
Steven & Maria Naiman .....	June 20
Joel & Susan Mintzes .....	June 22
Mike Panunto & Mari Peters .....	June 28
George & Leanna Rawley .....	June 28
Matthew & Isabel Fine .....	June 29
Tim & Keren Carter .....	June 30
Victor Mlotok & Anne Warner .....	July 7
Marc & Phyllis Cullen .....	July 9
Marvin & Bonnie Megibow .....	July 20
Irv & Nitsa Schiffman .....	July 31

## Condolences

We extend our condolences to Loretta Steinke on the passing of her mother, Reta May Foster. *May her memory be a blessing.*

## Birthdays in June and July

Samuel Lewkowicz .....	June 3
Mari Peters .....	June 3
Joy Zeichick .....	June 5
Donna Greenberg .....	June 7
Michael Puig .....	June 7
Niculina Archer .....	June 9
Lucy Rappaport .....	June 12
Nitsa Schiffman .....	June 15
Victor Mlotok .....	June 18
Michael Mulcahy .....	June 19
Dr. Madelyn Holzman .....	June 22
Garrett Green .....	June 24
Shane Rubinoff .....	June 24
Alex Thompson .....	June 25
Tim Carter .....	June 26
Julia Megibow .....	June 27
Sandy Abrams .....	June 28
Sam Sabersky .....	June 30
Carl Megibow .....	July 1
Ryan Rubinoff .....	July 2
Phyllis Cullen .....	July 5
Martha Fishkin .....	July 10
Irv Schiffman .....	July 15
Joseph Lewkowicz .....	July 16
Sarah Einhorn .....	July 17
Tirza Panunto .....	July 20
Michael Dakof .....	July 21
Adam Deromedi .....	July 21
Emma Jessee .....	July 24
Isabel Fine .....	July 31

## Tree of Life

To honor or memorialize a person or to celebrate an occasion by adding a leaf to the Tree of Life quilt, which hangs in the synagogue, send a \$25 donation to:



CBI Tree of Life, PO Box 3266, Chico, CA 95927

**Yahrzeits**

**Bernard Evens June 1**  
Remembered by Nancy Evens and Peter Straus

**Tillie Snower June 1**  
Remembered by Michael & Pamela Dakof and Marilyn Belmonte

**Sandie Rambach June 4**  
Remembered by Arron & Dawn Rambach

**Josephine Forrest June 6**  
Remembered by Renee Everett

**Gertrude Lenner June 7**  
Remembered by Matthew & Isabel Fine

**Max Lenner June 11**  
Remembered by Matthew & Isabel Fine

**Donald Ray Tobey June 11**  
Remembered by Loretta Steinke

**Louis Rappaport June 12**  
Remembered by Harvey & Lisa Rappaport

**Raphael Konigsberg June 13**  
Remembered by Polly K. Greenberg

**Yehuda and Mary Ann Meiri June 21**  
Remembered by Ilana Meiri

**Mary Rambach June 22**  
Remembered by Arron & Dawn Rambach

**Carl Rakosi June 24**  
Remembered by George & Leanna Rawley

**Anne Passovoy June 25**  
Remembered by Michael & Carol Passovoy

**Morris Rambach June 29**  
Remembered by Arron Rambach

**Shirley Mintzes July 2**  
Remembered by Joel & Susan Mintzes

**Henry Paull July 4**  
Remembered by Michael & Beverly Paull

**Sol Grossman July 13**  
Remembered by Deborah Shapiro

**James Archer July 19**  
Remembered by Susan Archer

**Don Kipperman July 25**  
Remembered by Karen & Richard Rogers



**2008-2009 CBI Board**

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Vice-President/Fundraising..... Irv Schiffman  
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Tikkun Olam/Social Action ..... Phyllis Cullen  
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**CBI Office Hours**

Administrative Assistant Liz Bohn,

**e-mail: [admin@cbichico.org](mailto:admin@cbichico.org)**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday • 1 – 5 p.m.

To make an appointment with Rabbi Danan, call 342-6146.



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**CBI News**

Free to members, \$18/year for non-members.

Call Liz Bohn at the CBI office, 342-6146, to subscribe.

Newsletter items are due the 15th of each month for the following month's publication.

Submit items to Nelda Jessee, [nelda@jessee.org](mailto:nelda@jessee.org).

Layout design by Carla Resnick.

## Tikkun Olam Updates

The Social Action/Tikkun Olam Committee, chaired by Phyllis Cullen, met on May 27th and decided to launch a “Year of Tikkun Olam” beginning with learning and making commitments on the Days of Awe and then kicking off with a fall Mitzvah Day, tentatively scheduled for October 25. This Mitzvah Day would not be just a one-day commitment, but rather the start of year-long involvement in four areas:

**Honoring the Elderly:** Doing the mitzvah of *hadarat p'nai zaken* through friendly visits or rides for Jewish seniors, “Buddies for Bubbies” (linking young families with Jewish elders), and more. Kristy Bergson, chairperson.

**International Involvement:** Learning and getting involved with international issues. Activities could range from a service trip in Latin America to collecting materials for a non-profit in Israel. Phyllis Cullen, chairperson.

**Community Care:** Making our own community a better place to live by lending a hand together at places like the Shalom Free Clinic, Torres Shelter, or Girls and Boys Club.

**Green Menorah:** Deepening our environmental commitment with outdoor service in Chico, such as adopting a picnic site in Bidwell Park or working in a community garden.

**What's needed:** Dedicated individuals are needed to chair the Community Care and Green Menorah subcommittees. Contact Phyllis Cullen, 570-0784, pcul429@gmail.com, if you have questions or if you have a passion for one of these areas and would like to be the team leader for Mitzvah Day and the coming year. In addition, let her know if you are already involved with a local non-profit that needs a hand from CBI members. If you can join a committee, please contact Phyllis to let her know what would be a good meeting day for you.

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## HaSifriyah & The Library Corner

“Books are made for use, not to be hidden away.”  
—Sefer Hasidim

## CBI Reads!

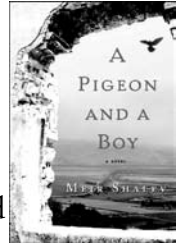
By Wendy Diamond  
CBI Library Chair

Join the CBI Book Group during the summer! If you want to be included on the email list for updates and locations, contact Harriet at hspiegel@csuchico.edu.

**Sunday, June 14, 2009**

*A Pigeon and a Boy* by Meir Shalev.

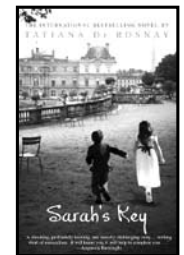
Intertwining two love stories with Israel's independence, the novel offers a compelling portrait of Israel's period before statehood to the present day. Written by one of Israel's most celebrated writers, it won the Brenner Prize.



**Sunday, September 13, 2009**

*Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay

Already translated into 15 languages, the novel takes place during the deportations faced by Jews in France during WWII. According to reviews, the book is riveting and hard to put down.



See you at the Book Group!

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**Mark your calendar**

May 31 Doug Cotler Concert  
June 19 CBI General Meeting

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## Congregation Beth Israel

Congregation Beth Israel is an independent, egalitarian Jewish community whose roots date back a century. The synagogue is both nondenominational and unaffiliated. Our guiding principle is K'lal Yisrael, the unity of the Jewish people. True to that spirit, CBI embraces a diverse membership of Jews from all backgrounds as well as interfaith couples and those exploring Judaism. We serve nearly 100 families in the greater Chico area with a wide range of programs for toddlers, tweens, teens, adults, and seniors. Our Religious School is very strong, and our Sisterhood is very active. Services are held Friday nights at 7:30 p.m. (6 p.m. on the first Friday for the monthly family service) and Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. We also hold services on all major Jewish holidays.

The ideal to which we strive is Mordecai Kaplan's concept of the "synagogue center," in which a congregation serves both as a house of worship and as a community center. Rabbi Julie Hilton Danan provides the inspirational leadership for our Jewish values: study, *Torah*; worship and practice, *Avodah*; social action, *Tikkun Olam*; acts of kindness, *Gemilut Hasadim*; and connection with the Jewish People, *Am Yisrael*.



Passover, photo by David Bermann