



News

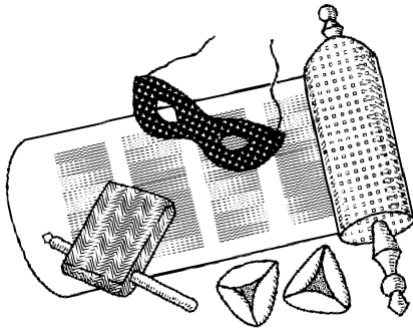
February 2010 • Sh'vat/Adar 5770

Congregation Beth Israel • PO Box 3266 • 1336 Hemlock St • Chico, CA 95927
Ph: 530-342-6146 • Fax: 530-342-0278 • www.cbichico.org

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

Purim: Time for Some Serious Partying!

Join us for two big Purim celebrations this month!



Saturday Night Party

On the Eve of Purim, Saturday night, February 27, at 7:30 p.m. come in costume for our famous gala party for all ages, with our classic Hebrew-English Megillah reading (with noisemakers), crazy music by our famous Purim Band, yummy hamantaschen and other goodies to enjoy. If you can bake some three-cornered goodies or help with the party, please contact Social-Cultural chair, Kristy Bergson, 228-5481.

Purim is time for partying with a serious purpose: to remember the survival of our people despite all odds and to affirm our commitment to a better world for all. Bring some money for Purim *tzedakah* and we will dedicate our collection to the American Jewish World Service to help individuals in Haiti or wherever the need is most urgent.

Sunday Afternoon Carnival for Families

On Sunday, February 28, 3 p.m., Menchkin and Religious School Families are invited to come in costume for our Purim Carnival. In addition to booths and games, there will be a kid-friendly Megillah reading by the Rabbi, and students will make *Mishloach Manot* (goody baskets), which they will distribute to our Senior Sages. The afternoon concludes with a casual Se'udah (Purim Dinner) for families. RSVP to Carol Edelman: cedelman@csuchico.edu so we can plan.

Purim: A Religious or Secular Holiday?

Rabbi Danan's sermon on Friday, February 26 will focus on, "Purim: The Holiday of Jewish Humanism." Why isn't God mentioned in the Megillah? Is Purim really the quintessential holiday for secular Jews? Come to our 7:30 p.m. service to discuss some contemporary meanings of Purim.



Mishpachah Shabbat to Feature "Desi" Cuisine

Our Mishpachah Shabbat for all ages will be held on Friday, February 5 at CBI.

Featured this month is a "Desi" (Southeast Asian, Pakistani/Indian) vegetarian dinner catered by Rabina Khan. Cost is \$10 per adult, \$18 per couple and "kids eat free."

We will continue to follow our new schedule:

5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat for Menchkins Families with Rabbi Danan

6 p.m. (promptly): Kiddush and "Desi" Shabbat Dinner

7 p.m. (approx.): Family-friendly Shabbat Service. Gabe Feldman-Franden, who is preparing to become Bar Mitzvah, will be our main leader, and the other Religious School students will participate. Rabbi Danan will share Shabbat stories about the Ten Commandments.

RSVPs needed by Tuesday, Feb. 2: 342-6146 or admin@cbichico.org.

RSVPs are crucial in making these continued dinners possible for CBI!

"No-Show" Policy: If you respond positively for the dinner but can't make it at the last minute, please make a donation in kind to the office the following week. CBI still has to pay for your family's dinner even if you don't show up. Thanks for your consideration.

Effi Eitam Speaks at CBI, February 9 at 7 p.m.

The Story Behind the Raid on Entebbe

Remember Entebbe? It was early July, 1976. Air France Flight 139 was hijacked by members of the militant Revolutionary Cells and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The flight originated in Tel Aviv and, after a stop in Athens, was heading to Paris when it was forced to Libya and then Entebbe Airport in Uganda. The hijackers divided their hostages into two groups, Jews and non-Jews, announced that they were releasing the crew and the non-Jews, and threatened to kill their Jewish captives if Israel didn't meet their demands. The Israeli military responded with a dramatic military operation, successfully rescuing most of the hostages and flying them back to Israel.

On February 9, at 7 p.m., Effi Eitam, retired Brigadier General in the Israel Defense Forces, politician, Knesset member, and commander of one of the military units involved in the Entebbe raid, will be speaking at CBI. We'll hear the story behind the rescue of the hostages at Entebbe.

To refresh our memories about the Entebbe rescue and prepare for Eitam's talk, we will be showing *Raid on Entebbe*, the 1977 movie starring Peter Finch, Horst Buchholz, Charles Bronson, Yaphet Kotto and James Wood at CBI on Saturday evening, February 6, at 7:30 p.m. Join us for a good movie, refreshments, and some introductory remarks by Irv Schiffman about his own recollections of the Entebbe raid.



Gabriel Feldman-Franden's Bar Mitzvah, March 6th

I've always known that I was "technically" Jewish, but it wasn't until about a year and a half ago that I got really interested and excited about practicing Judaism. My parents arranged for me to go away to summer



camp for three weeks in July 2008. The camp they chose was Camp Tawonga, which is in a beautiful place right next to Yosemite National Park. I was a little worried about not knowing enough Jewish "stuff" when I went but it turned out that didn't matter at all. I loved it! I ate kosher meals for the first time in my life and celebrated Shabbat two weeks in a row with special activities starting Friday night and lasting all day Saturday. I learned special prayers for all sorts of things. (Did you know there is a special prayer for when you go to the bathroom?) Anyway, when I came back from camp I decided I wanted to keep kosher and have been doing it ever since. I also thought about becoming an Orthodox Jew but eventually decided to stick with the Chico style Judaism. So, I've been looking forward to my Bar Mitzvah and have a lot of fun things planned to share with everybody.

I have been playing drums since I was four years old and I want to become a professional musician when I grow up. I have been taking lessons forever and I am in a band, Suspended Animation. We have written and recorded an album. We are also playing for my Bar Mitzvah party! My drumming is taking me places already. I am the youngest drummer ever endorsed by Peace Drums, and this summer I am going to the Musician's Institute in Hollywood. I take lessons with two drum teachers and play punk rock, jazz, big band and klezmer music.

I am in 7th grade at Chico Junior High School where I'm in the Spanish Immersion Program. I've been speaking Spanish since I was in kindergarten and I think it's cool to speak two languages. Two years ago when I was in 5th grade I was voted School Bike Hero of the Year because I ride my bike just about everywhere.



Please let Laurie Feldman or Dan Franden know if you plan to attend Gabe's Bar Mitzvah. He will be co-leading services on Friday, March 5th at 7:30 p.m. and the Torah service on March 6th at 10 am. After the Saturday service there will be a lunch reception and a teen party in the evening. To RSVP, call 864-0643 or e-mail: laffnp@gmail.com.

Celebration of Abraham Sunday, February 21, 5:30 p.m.

In February 2004 Rand Rosa, an attorney from Lodi, came to Chico to speak to the Chico Interfaith Council. After 9/11 there had been a couple of cross burnings in Lodi and Mr. Rosa urged the Chico group to form an organization to help promote understanding among the various faith communities. The Celebration of Abraham, a sub-committee of the Chico Interfaith Council, is a volunteer organization which was formed to foster such understanding and trust.

CBI's Loretta Steinke, is serving as chairperson of this year's sixth annual event which will be held February 21 at the Latter-Day Saints Church, 2430 Mariposa Avenue. The evening will feature a potluck vegetarian dinner; the program will focus on the three Abrahamic faiths – Judaism, Christianity, and Islam — getting to know each other and turning misconceptions into positive connections. Mark your calendars and join us.

From Our Rabbi – An Oasis for Rabbis, Supported by ALEPH Alliance for Jewish Renewal

By Rabbi Julie Hilton Danan, Ph.D.

Last month I traveled to St. Louis, Missouri for my annual Ohalah Conference for Jewish Renewal Rabbis. The theme of the Conference was “An Oasis in Time, Space and Spirit” (*Olam, Shanah va-Nefesh* in the phrase of the early mystical book, “Sefer Ha-Yetsirah”). Guest



teacher was Rabbi Nehemiah Polen, Professor of Jewish Thought and Director of Hassidic Text Institute, Hebrew College in Boston. We also heard from Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi and other leaders of the Jewish Renewal movement.

The Conference includes business meetings and professional development, but it also takes the form of a spiritual retreat, described as a “spiritual oasis, to connect with the nourishing spiritual waters that satisfy the deepest yearnings of your soul.” Rabbis, Cantors and Chaplains work hard throughout the year to lead and serve our communities. At our Conference/Retreat we got our spiritual batteries recharged as we joined in text study, heard inspiring presentations, and participated in joyful *davening* (prayer) that included music, chanting, and meditation.

We gathered with valued friends and colleagues “to receive the blessings of insight, renewal, and personal revelation to sustain our work for another year.” Not only do I feel rejuvenated (re-Jew-venated?), but I also returned with many new ideas, materials, and guidance for serving you, my community.

Ohalah is but one of many organizations and activities birthed by ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal, the umbrella organization for Jewish Renewal activities in North America, Israel, and around the world. To put it simply, I probably would not have been able to become a rabbi without the innovative ALEPH Rabbinic Program that provided me, as a mother of five and full-time Jewish professional, with an innovative alternative path to the rabbinate. Moreover, I would not be

here serving as your rabbi were it not for that training that I received through ALEPH.

And here’s the latest ALEPH Opportunity: A Birthright Israel Program. These programs fill up so fast, but here is one that is looking for participants now!

Announcing FREE Summer 2010 ALEPH/Taglit-Birthright Israel Trip *Experience Israel and Jewish Renewal Like Never Before*

Join us for a 10-day trip in the Spring-Summer of 2010 (dates to be determined this month) designed especially for ALEPH members and friends. This year’s trip will be led by remarkable ALEPH leaders: second-generation Jewish Renewalist, aspiring cantor and martial artist Sarah Beck-Berman, and ALEPH Rabbinic Student, chant leader, environmental activist and spiritual storyteller Ilan Glazer.

If you or someone you know is Jewish, 18-26, has graduated high school and has not been on an organized peer trip to Israel, fill out our showing of interest form so we can make sure you get on the trip. **Then, you must register directly with Israel Outdoors at www.israeloutdoors.com on February 17 for the ALEPH Jewish Renewal trip.** (Look in the drop down menu.) First come first served, so register as close to Feb. 17 as you can! If you have accessibility questions regarding this active trip please note that on your “showing of interest” form.

For more information and to fill out the form, visit: <https://www.aleph.org/IsraelTrips.htm> today!

To keep the work of Jewish Renewal alive and perhaps to help other communities like ours find a rabbi like me, please consider becoming a supporter of ALEPH as well as of our own CBI community. Visit <https://www.aleph.org/> and click on “Join Aleph” (making an annual contribution) or “Become a Chai Donor” (donating \$18 per month) to help sustain this vital organization at a time when ALEPH, like so many nonprofits, is struggling to continue its unique work, not just for “Jewish Renewal,” but for the Renewal of all Judaism.

Shabbat Scholar Jed Wyrick

Jed Wyrick, Chair of the Department of Religious Studies and Director of the Modern Jewish Studies Program at Chico State, will be our Shabbat Scholar on Friday, February 19 at our 7:30 p.m. service. Title will be announced in the weekly e-mail.



Jed, who holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Harvard, specializes in teaching Judaism, where he emphasizes the tradition's biblical and rabbinic roots, medieval and post-Enlightenment challenges, and literary and philosophical responses to modernity.

Hold These Dates!

Passover begins "early" this year. The first Seder is Monday, March 29, and the CBI Community Seder is slated for Tuesday, March 30.

The Jewish Heritage Festival in Sacramento on Sunday, May 2, draws about 4,000 visitors for an afternoon of music, food, and Israeli culture. Thanks to a Community Development Grant from the Jewish Federation of the Greater Sacramento Region, CBI has chartered a private bus to and from this event. Tickets will be just \$5 per person (\$15 maximum per family) and lots of fun activities are planned.

Sisterhood/Haverot News

By Donna Greenberg

As always the Sisterhood Shabbat service on January 22, 2010 was fantastic and inspirational! Although I took the lead on organizing this service, I could not have completed this task without the help of many our Sisterhood/Haverot members. Thank you to all who participated in the actual service: Sue Mintzes, Fran Halimi, Loretta Steinke, Bev Paull, Inge Schmidt, Rhonda Zisle, Pam Dakof, Wendy Diamond, Kristy Bergson, Helene Ginsberg, Bonnie Mitchell and Rabbi Julie. No choir this year, but our CBI band played beautifully. Thank you, David Frankel, for getting the band together for rehearsals and for the actual service. Our wonderful cooks for the Oneg were Nelda Jessee, Bev Paull, Loretta Steinke, Bonnie Mitchell, Fran Halimi, Terri Lind, Judith Krenn and myself. I apologize if I have left anyone out, but let me know and I will make sure you are acknowledged in next month's newsletter.

We are still working on a date to offer a wonderful program of Jewish meditation. This was so well received last year that we are hoping to offer it again in the next month to be lead by Rabbi Julie. Light refreshments will be offered. Watch your e-mail or snail mail for a date and more information. I hope many of you will attend this serene and meaningful program.

It is that time of the year when we are in the midst of putting together a slate of officers. If any of you have a desire to be part of the board, contact any of the current board members or contact me, Donna Greenberg (891-6439 or drg@mv.mv.com) to see what it involves. We have a variety of positions open and would love to have some new members become more involved. Becoming a board member is not only fun (with some work involved), but you also making lasting friendships and help to contribute to the well being of our synagogue and our Sisterhood/Haverot.

Shalom, Donna



CBI Religious School Purim Carnival

Sunday, February 28, 3 p.m.

Kid-Friendly Megillah Reading

Haman Noisemaking

Games, Contests, Puzzles

Purim Baskets

Dinner

And more...

come in costume ready for a great time!!!



Sisterhood 2010 Calendar

Jewish Meditation TBA
Bagel Brunch April 25
End-of-the-year-Brunch June 13

Sisterhood Board

President Donna Greenberg
 Treasurer Fran Halimi
 VP/Interest Groups Pam Dakof
 Past President Bev Paull
 Members-at-Large Kristy Bergson, Laurie Howard,
 Sue Mintzes

From the President – The Yoseftal Senior Center

By Irv Schiffman

Congregation Beth Israel recently received a hand-made challah cover sent to CBI by the members of the Yoseftal Senior Center of the Israeli city of Kfar Saba. On Mitzvah Day our religious school students prepared greeting cards that were sent to the center and which cards included a photo of our seniors, the CBI Sages. I asked the director of the center, my daughter-in-law, Ile Schiffman, to tell us about the center. Here is what she wrote:

The Yoseftal Senior Center is operated by the welfare department of the municipality of



Above: Members of the Yoseftal Senior Center



Left: Challah Cover presented to CBI by the Yoseftal Senior Center

Kfar Saba. It is funded jointly by the municipality and by a local foundation for the elderly. Members also contribute a symbolic fee of about \$12 per month. There are six neighborhood clubs for seniors in Kfar Saba, which are part of a national program for the elderly.

The center has 40 members, all of whom are women who live nearby. The members walk to the center, which is open four days a week from 8 a.m. to noon. At the

center a series of instructors lead classes in arts and crafts, exercise, yoga, study of the weekly Torah portion, and discussions of current events and movies. The center also offers field trips and holds celebrations for Jewish holidays.

The Yoseftal neighborhood is located at the east end of Kfar Saba, barely a mile from the Green Line, the line separating Israel from the Palestinian West Bank. It includes many public housing units that were built in the 1950's for new immigrants. The center's members hail from Iran, Iraq, Morocco, Yemen, Romania, Argentina and other countries; interestingly, none were born in Israel. At a recent bazaar held at the center, members brought homemade food to sell that originated in their native country, including Persian rice, Yemenite kubaneh and Iraqi pretzels.

CBI Knitters

CBI Knitters Group welcomes new member Judith to our happy Monday morning group. Our group is growing, but we still have room for more. Bring your needles and yarn and knit away. Contact Debby at 894-3024.



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

HaSifriyah & The Library Corner

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

—Sefer Hasidim

From the Tikkun Olam Committee “Green Menorah” Initiative

Third in a Series of Articles:

REDUCE first

REUSE if you can't reduce

RECYCLE if you can't REUSE



Recycling Is a Mitzvah!

Recycling represents the modern version of a biblical mitzvah (commandment) called, “Bal Tashchit,” do not destroy, based on the commandment in Deuteronomy not to cut down fruit groves even in time of war. This mitzvah was extended to prohibition of any kind of wanton or useless destruction. Today we can fulfill it by reducing, reusing and recycling.

Just because you don't want something any more, it doesn't mean that someone else won't. So instead of just throwing an unwanted item in the bin, maybe you can sell it, give it away, re-use it for another purpose, or recycle it. Before the mid 1940s virtually everything we used was reused or recycled. Just tossing things in the trash that were perfectly good just wasn't done as long as the article had some kind of use or re-purpose ability! For our grandparents' generation, re-using and recycling was the norm. If we want to have a viable world for our children and grandchildren, we need to revisit those ideas.

Since there is only a limited amount of space for landfill, it would be wise to reduce the amount of “stuff” that goes into them. Wouldn't you feel good knowing that the old computer that you were just going to toss in the toxic waste dump, was instead salvaged and parts used to make other computers that underprivileged kids could use in a boys and girls club?

To learn more check out the website: <http://www.buttecounty.net/RecycleButte.aspx>

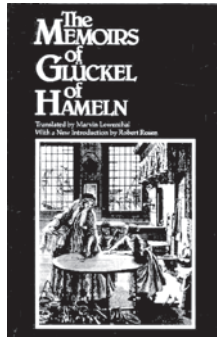
CBI Reads!

By Wendy Diamond, CBI Library Chair

The CBI Book group is now mixing in memoirs and history, while maintaining our commitment to fiction about Jewish culture and tradition.

Memoirs of Glückel of Hameln
(translation by Martin Lowenthal)
Sunday, March 7 at 2 p.m.

Begun in 1690, this diary of a forty-four-year-old German Jewish widow, mother of fourteen children, tells how she guided the destinies of her children, how she engaged in trade, ran her own factory, and promoted the welfare of her family. Her memoir, a rare account of an ordinary woman, enlightens not just her children, for whom she wrote it, but all posterity about her life and community. Glückel speaks to us with determination and humor of war, plague, pirates, soldiers, the hysteria of the false messiah Sabbtai Zevi, murder, bankruptcy, wedding feasts, births, deaths, in fact, of all the human events that befell her during her lifetime.



The Lazarus Project
by Aleksander Hemon

Sunday, April 18 at 2 p.m.

Named Amazon Book-of-the-Month in May 2008, the author is a MacArthur grant winner. The book's theme is immigrant disillusion and displacement but it is also filled with humor and hope. Enlivened by Bosnian and Jewish jokes, the novel also notes the parallels between the U.S. war against anarchism a century ago and its war against terrorism today, without laboring them.



Locations are announced via e-mail from Harriet Spiegel. If you would like to be included in updates, contact her at hspiegel@csuchico.edu.

Everyone is invited, even those who have not attended a Book Group meeting before! We always seek new members to enliven our discussions.

The JTC is planning a Snowboarding Trip for President's Day Weekend, February 12-15. For more information, contact Ryan Carter 925-324-9931.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 5:30 p.m. B'nai Mitzvah Class	2 3:30 p.m. Religious School 6:30 p.m. Mah Jongg	3 7 p.m. Sisterhood Meeting at CBI	4 3:30 p.m. Religious School Enrichment 5:30 p.m. Beginner's Hebrew	5 5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat 6 p.m. Mishpachah Dinner & Service	6 9 a.m. Adult Study 10 a.m. Torah Service 7:30 p.m. Movie Night at CBI <i>Raid at Entebbe</i>
7	8 5:30 p.m. B'nai Mitzvah Class	9 3:30 p.m. Religious School 7 p.m. Special Speaker: Brigadier General Effi Eitam	10 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	11 3:30 p.m. Religious School Enrichment 5:30 p.m. Beginner's Hebrew	12 NO Service	13 Youth Group Ski Trip Weekend NO Adult Study 10 a.m. Torah Service
14	15 NO B'nai Mitzvah Class	16 3:30 p.m. Religious School 6:30 p.m. Mah Jongg	17 11 a.m. Sages' Brunch 7 p.m. Board Meeting	18 3:30 p.m. Religious School Enrichment 5:30 p.m. Beginner's Hebrew	19 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service Shabbat Scholar: Jed Wyrick	20 9 a.m. Adult Study 10 a.m. Torah Service
21 5:30 p.m. Celebration of Abraham Dinner 2430 Mariposa Ave	22 5:30 p.m. B'nai Mitzvah Class	23 3:30 p.m. Religious School 6:30 p.m. Mah Jongg	24 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	25 3:30 p.m. Religious School Enrichment 5:30 p.m. Beginner's Hebrew	26 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service	27 9 a.m. Adult Study 10 a.m. Torah Service 7:30 p.m. Purim Party
28 3 p.m. Purim Carnival Family Program	1 5:30 p.m. B'nai Mitzvah Class	2 3:30 p.m. Religious School 6:30 p.m. Mah Jongg	3 7 p.m. Sisterhood Meeting at CBI	4 3:30 p.m. Religious School Enrichment 5:30 p.m. Beginner's Hebrew	5 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service	6 9 a.m. Adult Study 10 a.m. Gabe Feldman-Franden Bar Mitzvah

Shabbat Services for February

CBI celebrates Kabbalat Shabbat on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. (Usually first Friday is an early Mishpachah Service), often accompanied by instrumental music. An Oneg Shabbat follows. Shabbat Saturday programs start with a class for adults. The morning service generally begins 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.

Friday, February 5 Light Candles at 5:13 p.m.	5:30 p.m. 6 p.m. (promptly) 7 p.m. (approx.)	Tot Shabbat Kiddush & Shabbat Dinner Indian-Pakistani Cuisine catered by Rabina Khan. Cost is \$10 per adult, \$18 per couple. Kids eat free but we need your RSVP by Feb. 2 Mishpachah Service
Saturday, February 6	9 a.m. 10 a.m.	Adult Study Class Torah Service / Parashat Yitro Torah Reading by Steve Margolin Rabbi Danan will speak on the "Ten Commandments and Holy Envy." Kiddush is sponsored by the Ginsberg-Sabersky Family in honor of Andrew's birthday
Friday, February 12 Light Candles at 5:21 p.m.	NO Service	NO Service
Saturday, February 13	10 a.m.	NO Adult Study Class Torah Service led by Helene Ginsberg & Steve Margolin. Parashat Mishpatim/Shabbat Shekalim. Kiddush sponsored by Inge Schmidt in honor of her CBI friends and prepared by the Jessees
Friday, February 19 Light Candles at 5:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat Shabbat Scholar Jed Wyrick , Chair of Religious Studies & Director of Modern Jewish Studies at CSU Chico. Oneg sponsored by Phyllis Cullen in honor of all her children's birthdays.
Saturday, February 20	9 a.m. 10 a.m.	Adult Study Class Torah Service/ Parashat Terumah Rabbi Danan will speak on "The Role of Beauty in Judaism." Kiddush is sponsored by the Jessees
Friday, February 26 Light Candles at 5:37 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat Rabbi Danan will speak on "Purim: The Holiday of Jewish Humanism." Oneg is sponsored by the Sisterhood
Saturday, February 27	9 a.m. 10 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	Adult Study Class Torah Service. Devar Torah by John Mitchell. Parashat Tetzaveh/Zachor Purim Megillah Reading & Party!
Sunday, February 28	3 p.m.	Purim Day Carnival & Dinner for Religious School & Menchkin Families

Thanks to everybody who sponsored an Oneg or Kiddush in January: Ingeborg Johannsen, the Zeichicks, the Lewkowiczs, the Sisterhood, Carol Edelman, and the Millers.

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.



On December 26 at Havdalah, Rabbi Danan and Avraham Danan led a baby-naming ceremony at the Rambach home. Pictured here are Arron and Dawn Rambach and their children Noah and Sophie Bella, given the Hebrew name Sara Leah.

Join us for our 6th Annual Dinner and Program! Celebration of Abraham

Building bridges of trust and fostering understanding between the three Abrahamic faith communities, Judaism,



Christianity, and Islam.

Our goal is to put human faces on faith and to get to know our neighbors who belong to these faith communities.

Sunday, February 21, 2010 5:30 p.m.

**At the Latter-Day Saints Church
2430 Mariposa Avenue, Chico, California
(on the corner of Mariposa and East Avenue)**

Potluck vegetarian dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Program:

**"From Misconceptions to New
Connections"**

This event is free, and everyone is welcome
Childcare will be available.

For more information, call (530) 343-3662

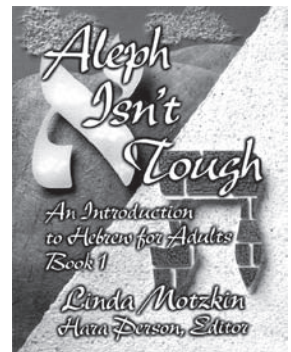
Tikkun Olam: Donations to Haiti Through the American Jewish World Service

With a per capita income of \$3.60 per day, Haiti is the most impoverished country in the Western Hemisphere. Thus, its population is especially vulnerable to natural disasters. In response to the massive earthquake in Haiti on January 12, the American Jewish World Service has created the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund to support its network of grantees as they address the urgent needs of the affected populations. Donations to the American Jewish World Service help with emergency aid as well as helping to rebuild the country and strengthen its civil society in the long term.

Established in 1985, AJWS is the first American Jewish organization dedicated to alleviating poverty, hunger and disease among people across the globe. For more information or to donate, go to <http://ajws.org/> or call the New York based non-profit: 800-889-7146. Donation envelopes are available in the CBI lobby.

Beginner Hebrew Class Begins February 4

Our annual ten-week course in Adult Beginner Hebrew starts February 4. It will be held each Thursday, 5:30-6:30 p.m. through April 8. As a service to members, they pay only the \$18 book fee. Cost is \$75 for non-members, which includes the textbook, *Aleph Isn't Tough*. To enroll in the class, please contact Keren Carter at 809-0303 or KerenChaya@comcast.net.



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Religious School News

By Carol Edelman

The months are passing too quickly—it is already February and there are only 4 months of Religious School left. Lisa's class is making great strides learning Hebrew letters and vowels and the kids are intrigued by the Torah stories they read about each week. Ruth's class is reading Hebrew, learning prayers, and studying Jewish history. Our "energetic" older students in David's class are mastering the Friday night and Saturday morning service. We may be a small school but we have great teachers, a strong curriculum and some very enthusiastic students!

There are several exciting school events happening in February that are worth noting. The Mishpachah Shabbat is Friday evening, February 5. On February 18, we are going to be making some very special musical instruments at our Thursday afternoon session. These musical devices will be used at Gabe's Bar Mitzvah, March 5-6. On February 28 at 3 p.m. at CBI, we will celebrate Purim in style — we will have a child-oriented reading of the Megillah by the rabbi, a carnival with games, contests, face painting, etc., we'll make food baskets to distribute (mishloach manot), and end the festivities with a tasty dinner. Costumes encouraged!

There are a few dates to save for special activities in March and April. On Sunday March 7 (time to be determined), we have a theatre troupe from Sacramento performing "The Never Ending Greenness," based on a children's book by the same name. It is the story of the creation of the Children's Forest in Israel. The show integrates costumed actors, beautiful Israeli and Klezmer music, folk dancing, painted sets,

and haunting and amusing puppets for secondary characters. The play was created and produced by the Crane Cultural Theater with support from the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission and the City and County of Sacramento. The Crane Culture Theater (CCT) was formed in 2004 and now has seven shows. Based in Sacramento, CCT has performed shows throughout northern California. It stages international cultural stories that all reveal the important connections between culture and nature.

April 18 is another important date to save. We are planning to car pool to the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco. We'll have a 2-3 hour private tour of the museum, including their *As It Is Written: Project 304,805* with a *soferet* (a professionally trained female scribe) who, while on public view, is writing out the entire text of the Torah over several months. We will get to talk with her and see the Torah she is creating. Our tour ends with a lesson on scribal arts and the kids will get to experiment with scribal materials and calligraphy. You'll be getting more e-mails about this field trip as the date gets closer.

If you have any questions or comments, want to talk with me about something at the school, or if you might be willing to help me organize the April trip to San Francisco, give me a call or we can talk on Tuesday during school hours.



Norman and Jean Corwin

By Jim Jessee

It was a pleasure to interview Norm and Jean Corwin. Both Nelda and I remember Norm from our childhoods, and especially his father-in-law, Jack Feingold, and their successful and successive fine clothing businesses in downtown Chico — Feingold's Men's Wear evolving to Corwin and Son, then Corwin Bridal and Tuxedo, as the business continues with his son, David, today. As a boy, my mother used to drag me in and out of these stores, trying to find "husky" britches and shirts, and I remember Norman as Chico's "best dressed" fellow.

While we knew a little about this business history, I knew nothing of his upbringing in New York City, nor that he came to Chico with his bride, Marion Feingold,

a local girl who had been visiting her family and working in Manhattan, when she was swept off her feet by Norman. Little did I know that our local haberdasher had been a chemical engineer in his New York life, later took his Bachelor's Degree in Art at Chico State, and is an artist today, with many wonderful paintings and drawings throughout his home.

Norman Daniel Corwin was born in 1927 in Brooklyn, New York, living most of his childhood between his parents in Harlem, and his grandparents in Brighton Beach, with sojourns with his parents in other Brooklyn neighborhoods. It seems Norman was left to run on his own a lot, and at a very tender age reportedly

rode his tricycle from Brighton Beach to Coney Island, along the Boardwalk, and I assume back again, a distance of over 5 miles. He took advantage of his freedom to roam the neighborhoods of Brighton Beach and Harlem, and began to associate with “negative” influences. His parents had a large rooming house, with a very tolerant and “open door” policy. According to Norm it was very hectic and eclectic, if not at times exotic for a young boy. Norm got “ideas” at an early age. He was shipped back to his grandparents in Brighton Beach for high school and a little more supervision.

He survived his youth and graduated in 1945 from Abraham Lincoln High School in Brooklyn. He went immediately into the Navy, lying about his age, but only got to serve for 18 months, most of the time in New Jersey. After a checkered academic start at a technical school, Norm straightened out his academic attitude, and went on to graduate with a degree in Chemical Engineering, from Brooklyn Poly Tech. He was working as a chemical engineer for the National Lead Company when he met Marion Feingold, on a blind date with a borrowed dollar, which he paid back.

After their marriage in 1949, Norm agreed to return on a visit with his new wife to Chico in 1952. They decided to stay, and the rest is history. He would join and eventually take over the Feingold family business, and together they raised a family of three children, David, Andy, and Sarah. In the late 70s, Norman decided to go back to college to pursue a life-long love of art, and trained to be an artist with some of Chico’s finest artists. Marion died in 2000, leaving Norm alone in their home on Sierra Vista Way.

Among many civic and personal accomplishments, we are thankful that Norman Corwin and his family were among the founders who helped purchase our CBI building and re-establish our congregation in about 1955 or 1956. He served eight times as the Congregation President over the years, and saw CBI through thick and thin. He is a craftsman, as well as an artist, and contributed mightily to the physical work of developing the synagogue and grounds. He built many of the original CBI furnishings, including the portable Torah Ark we use today for services off-site. He has several examples of his woodworking in his home as well.



Jean Arlyle (Crandall) Gordon came to Chico from San Fernando Valley in 1989, to be nearer her grown children, Francine, Ruth (our CBI Religious School Teacher), Sam, and Larry Gordon. She was a widow, living alone with lots of time on her hands as she explained. She joined and soon became a stalwart volunteer for CBI serving on the Board. She and Nelda commiserated about the Newsletter as Jean did it mostly by herself for six years. She first learned about computers doing the CBI

Newsletter – she said she pitied the readers of her first publications.

Jean grew up in Michigan and described her background as being a Heinz variety, including American Indian, French, English, Dutch, and more, but her mother, who was Jewish, died when Jean was four, and she had no religious upbringing. She searched among various religions, finding herself at home in Judaism. She joined the Air Force, “to see the world.” Instead, she met and married a wonderful Jewish man named Arthur Gordon. Because of her lack of religious upbringing, Jean decided to go through formal conversion, not only for herself but also as a surprise for her husband. They raised their children in the Air Force, ending up in the San Fernando Valley. Jean moved to Chico after her husband died.

It was through their association with CBI, that Jean and Norman met. One day Norman, being a widower himself, called on Jean with some surplus onions from his garden. The onions worked. Friendship grew to much more, and Norman and Jean were married by Rabbi Danan in May 2004. It was wonderful to see them together, as they are both still learning each other’s stories, and talk. With their marriage, Norman had no problem deciding to move to Jean’s home, out in the country, where you can see the sunset and dogs can roam free. Together they have established a beautiful home full of art and memories of both their lives. They have a wonderful dog, Tovah, and she is a “sheyne” dog.

During Jean Gordon Corwin’s many years on the CBI Board, she “inherited” much of the CBI history papers, which she has stored in their home. We are seeking a more permanent, accessible, and secure place for these materials. Jean and I both appeal to you for ideas on acquiring an appropriate fire-safe storage cabinet and place to put these items, or a plan to preserve them some other way.

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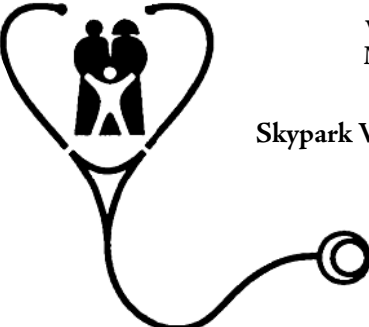
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CBI Office Hours
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Bat Mitzvah

*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? —Hillel, c150 C.E.*

Birthdays in February

Michael Passovoy February 4
Andrew Sabersky February 5
Helen T. Levine February 6
Emily Levine February 8
Cai Jackson February 9
Steven Naiman February 13
Sadie Pressman February 14
Anne Warner February 14
Helene Ginsberg February 17
Sara Leitner February 17
Mike Panunto February 18
David Passovoy February 19
Marc Cullen February 20
Gabe Franden February 28
Nadine Tochterman February 28

Anniversaries in February

Joe & Rose Clark February 16
Harvey & Lisa Rappaport February 17
Al & Sandy Abrams February 21
Louis & Selda Arnoff February 22
Stanley & Anne Gottlieb February 22
Karen & Richard Rogers February 22

Refuah Shelemah

We wish a complete and speedy recovery to Karen Rogers and Marilynn Belmonte.

Condolences

We extend our condolences to Bunny Keterman on the passing of her father-in-law, Robert Beengin.
May his memory be a blessing.

Yahrzeits

Anna McQuade February 2
Remembered by Kathy Zeichick & Sue Pfluecke

Sam Levine February 5
Remembered by Mark & Helen T. Levine

Rubin Diamond February 6
Remembered by Wendy Diamond & Michael Mulcahy

Leah Rawley February 7
Remembered by George & Leanna Rawley

Milton Weiner February 10
Remembered by Marc & Phyllis Cullen

Max Greenberg February 11
Remembered by Robert & Donna Greenberg

Melvin Pims February 12
Remembered by Justin & Kristy Bergson

Julien Bauer February 16
Remembered by Michael & Beverly Paull

Vivian Johnson February 16
Remembered by Anne & Stanley Gottlieb

Phillip Benaron February 20
Remembered by Lisa Benaron

Abraham Bresnick February 20
Remembered by Marshall Thompson & Andrea Lerner

Robert Lind February 21
Remembered by Terri Lind & Mike Richman

Robert Franden February 22
Remembered by Dan Franden & Laurie Feldman

Israel Brownfield February 23
Remembered by James & Nelda Jessee

Phillip Merenbloom February 25
Remembered by Robert Merenbloom and Michael & Sara Leitner

Betty Harkey February 26
Remembered by Loretta Steinke

Florence Merenbloom February 27
Remembered by Robert Merenbloom and Michael & Sara Leitner

Arthur Gordon February 28
Remembered by Norman & Jean Corwin



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.
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Mark your calendar

February 4	Beginner Hebrew Class starts
February 5	Mishpachah Shabbat and Dinner
February 6	Movie: <i>Raid on Entebbe</i>
February 9	Effi Eitam speaks
February 19	Shabbat Scholar, Dr. Jed Wyrick
February 21	Celebration of Abraham
February 27	Purim Party
February 28	Religious School Purim Carnival

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*.



CBI Community Hanukkah Party at the ARC Pavilion in Chico, 2009.