



News

May 2010 • Iyyar/Sivan 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

Shavuot: The Giving of the Torah

Potluck Dinner and Multigenerational Celebration on
May 18



Celebrate Shavuot, the holiday of the giving of the Torah, with a special "Mishpachah" (family-style) dinner and "Kabbalat Chag" (receiving the festival) on the eve of the holiday: Tuesday, May 18, 5:30 p.m. The Religious School invites the entire community to celebrate a year of Jewish learning!

During Religious School that afternoon (from 3:30 p.m.) children, teachers and parent volunteers will be preparing a special celebration for the whole congregation. Then at 5:30 p.m., **everyone at CBI is invited** to join them for a holiday dinner. **Bring a potluck dish to contribute:** traditional Shavuot foods such as dairy dishes, blintzes, cheesecake and seasonal fruit are encouraged! Rather than a full service, we will welcome the holiday with a short ceremony of candle-lighting, kiddush, songs, presentation of an illustrated Torah made by our Bet Class, and the traditional "bikkurim" (first fruits) baskets carried by the children. The entire congregation is invited to celebrate this end-of-year activity with our CBI Religious School!

Shabbat Scholar Sam Edelman

Shabbat Scholar Sam Edelman will speak at our May 14th service at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Edelman is Executive Director of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East, and Professor Emeritus of Communication Studies and Modern Jewish Studies at Chico State.

The Families of CBI's Confirmation Class 5770

Invite the Entire Congregation
To Celebrate the Confirmation of:

Justin Halimi, Chloe Pressman,
Sarah Puig, Eli Schwartz,
and David Zisle

Friday, May 21, 2010 / 8 Sivan
7:30 p.m.

Service and speeches offered by the class.

Oneg Shabbat sponsored by the
Confirmation Families

Come Help Us Celebrate the Growth of
a Meaningful New Tradition at CBI!

His topic is "The 'Special Relationship' Between the U.S. and Israel." He will speak on how the relationship developed in history, as well as current developments. An Oneg will be sponsored by the Sisterhood.

Our Largest Seder ever, with 105 guests!

Photos by D.A. Bermann



New Member Appreciation Shabbat

By Dave Bermann, CBI Membership Chair

My heartfelt thanks to all who participated in our New Member Appreciation Shabbat evening service on March 26. New members in attendance included Richard Gitelson and Elisa Kleiman, Ingeborg Johannsen, Bunny Keterman, Vicky Tarazon and Victor Castaneda and Julie Atlas. We fully appreciate these and other people participating in our community. We gain from the participation of all who join us, and at the same time, hope to offer all members of the community increasing value in their religious and social lives as members of the Congregation Beth Israel family.

The success of this evening would not have been the same without the efforts of several individuals who deserve special thanks – those who helped prepare for the Oneg Shabbat, our musicians David Frankel and Gabe Franden, Board members Donna Greenberg, Sheri Trimboli, and Keren Carter, as well as special thanks to Rabbi Julie Danan for her guidance, collaboration and support in making this evening happen.

Kiddushes Celebrate Two Marriages

On Saturday, May 15, the Danan family will sponsor a Kiddush to celebrate the recent marriage of their daughter, Elisheva Danan, to Peter Huckfeldt, which was held in Santa Monica on March 21. Peter and Elisheva will be here from Venice, California, and look forward to meeting members of CBI. Kindly RSVP to the Danans, 343-6337 or rabbi@cbichico.org if attending, so that they can plan accordingly.

On Saturday, May 29, Terri Lind and Michael Richman, bride and groom, will celebrate their “Aufruf” (calling up to the Torah) and prenuptial blessing at CBI. A Kiddush will be sponsored by the Sisterhood in their honor and everyone is invited to join them for this happy occasion.

Siyyum Party for Adult Study Group

The last day of study on “The Prophetic Tradition” will be held on Saturday, May 22, at 9 a.m. In the tradition of a “siyyum” (completion celebration), class members will hold a potluck breakfast party that morning.

From Our Rabbi

By Rabbi Julie Hilton Danan

In smaller communities, we often compare the congregation to an extended family. If that is the case, then the entire congregation—and not only immediate relatives—should show up to celebrate life cycle events that involve our youth. In that spirit, you are all invited to join us as our fifth annual and largest-yet group of tenth graders is confirmed on Friday night, May 21, at 7:30 p.m. Justin Halimi, Chloe Pressman, Sarah Puig, Eli Schwartz, and David Zisle will lead the service along with other members of the Confirmation Class. Each young adult will also give a speech. The group will be recognized by the Rabbi, President, and Sisterhood of CBI. They will also pose for a group photo that will be added to our growing lobby display of Confirmation classes.

Shavuot, the holiday that celebrates the giving of the Torah, has become the traditional time for groups of students in tenth grade (or older) to mark the public affirmation of their Jewish identity and belief as young adults, at a more mature stage than Bar/Bat Mitzvah. This ceremony was developed in the Reform movement about 200 years ago, and was later adopted in many Conservative synagogues as well.

One of my first and foremost goals as rabbi in Chico was to address the issue of students “dropping out” after B’nai Mitzvah, which should truly represent the *beginning* of one’s adult Jewish learning and practice. It can be a source of pride to our



community that most of our students now participate in Confirmation class for three years after B’nai Mitzvah. In addition, our JTC youth group is flourishing, with 10 students working hard to go on a “tikkun olam” service trip to Belize this summer. My sister in Chicago shared that she wished her kids had as active a youth group at their temple as we have here in Chico! Many of our students participate in programs in Israel. Most recently, this spring Emily Carter participated in the March of the Living in Poland and Israel. Many go on to get involved in Jewish life in college.

And celebrate with our younger students, too, on the eve of Shavuot, May 18th, at 5:30 p.m. You don’t have to have a child in the Religious School to rejoice in watching our youngsters carry their holiday bikkurim (first fruit baskets), display the model Torah they made or sing holiday songs. Bring a dish for our veggie-dairy holiday potluck and join us for an informal holiday celebration for all ages. It is a source of joy that several of our students will attend Camp Tawonga this summer, with five receiving camperships from the Gert Lenner Fund. Thank you to Isabel and Matt Fine for starting this fund in memory of Isabel’s mother, and to everyone who has supported it and helped to build our children’s Jewish identity.

Happy Shavuot, the holiday of the Giving the Torah, may we pass it from generation to generation!

Passover Seder Thanks

A big “todah rabbah” to the many people who made our community Passover Seder possible:

John and Bonnie Mitchell, our overall chairpersons for all their incredible work; Scott and Jona Pressman, chefs extraordinaire; David and Fran Halimi for providing the wait staff, Ashley, Missy and Spring; and the Carter family for their generous donation of all the wine for the Seder, from Gefen Vineyards in Napa! Thanks to all the other helpers and cooks, including Kristy Bergson, Nelda and Jim Jessee, Renee Everett, Loretta Steinke, Ingeborg Johannsen, and Vicky Tarazon. Thanks to Ruth Gordon and her students for performing a great short play, “The Magician.” Thank you to Rabbi Julie Danan, Avraham Danan, Keren Carter, Andrew Sabersky (Elijah the Prophet) and Helene Ginsberg for leading and inspiring participants. Thanks to Dave Bermann and Terri Lind for taking photos so that we can remember this special occasion.

Dear Potential Minyanaire*,

Do a mitzvah that’s worth a million!

Come to a CBI Shabbat service on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. (except for the May 7 Mishpachah service which begins at 6 p.m.) or Saturdays at 10 a.m. this month. Feed your spirit at the service and your taste buds at the Oneg or Kiddush.

Enjoy visiting with your friends and also helping to guarantee a minyan so that people needing to say kaddish can do so!

Why wait for a Bar Mitzvah, holiday, or guest speaker? Consider coming “just because” it’s Shabbat and a time to reconnect with our great Jewish community. Chances are you’ll be glad you did.

Todah Rabbah in advance, Rabbi Julie

**Minyan=the quorum of 10 Jews above Bar/Bat Mitzvah age required to say many communal prayers, including the kaddish, and to do the full Torah service.*

JTC Raising Money for Service Trip

By Charles Danan

Ten members of the Jewish Teens of Chico are headed to Belize, Central America this June 11-21! In the spirit of “tikkun olam” (repairing the world), we will be volunteering for a week with the Cornerstone Foundation, teaching children age 9-12 English, computer skills, and more. We will stay at Trek Stop, an eco-tourism lodge, and also have some time for snorkeling, exploring and learning about the local culture. This is a trip we have been planning since the beginning of the school year, and as summer approaches we are all getting very excited.

JTC has sponsored several fundraising events this year. Our most recent fundraiser, a rummage sale held at CBI, made well over \$1200, and we are very proud and thankful to everyone who helped.

Now, as the trip approaches, JTC is in a final fundraising push so that we can provide scholarship money for participants, assist our chaperones, and support the organization where we are volunteering. That’s where you can help! Your donation of any amount will be greatly appreciated by all of us. Checks can be written to “JTC” and sent to the CBI office, P.O. Box 3266, Chico, CA 95927, or given to JTC president, Ryan Carter. Thank you in advance for your support.

HaSifriyah & The Library Corner

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

—Sefer Hasidim

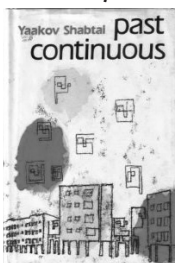
CBI Reads!

By Wendy Diamond, CBI Library Chair

Talked about a good book lately? Come join the regulars to discuss books about Jewish culture and tradition. It gets pretty lively and you won’t be sorry!

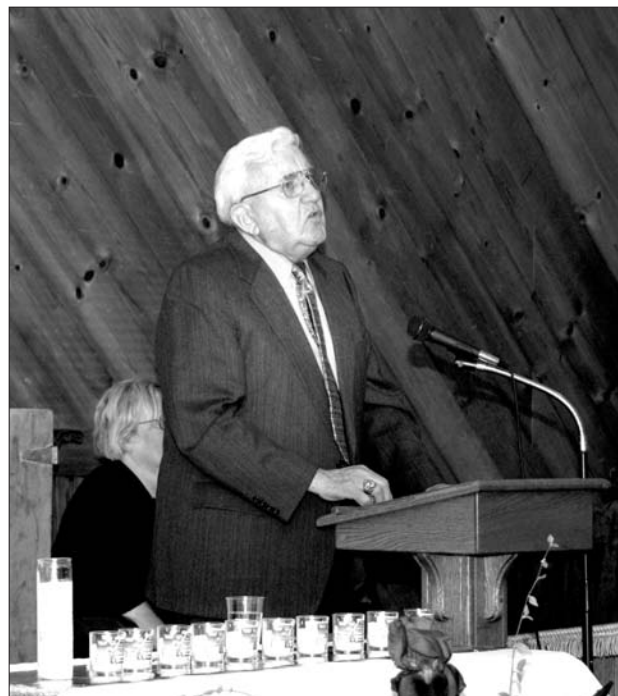
On Sunday, June 20 we will discuss *Past Continuous* by Yaakov Shabtai (translated by Dalya Bilu).

Originally written in Hebrew in 1977, *Past Continuous* is a brilliant tour de force, a Joycean panorama of the lives of three men, their families, their lovers, and their friends in the quintessentially modern city of Tel Aviv. It is as much a novel about Tel Aviv—its landscape, its idiosyncratic atmosphere, and its history—as it is about the human condition.



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

Yom HaShoah Commemoration a Meaningful Evening



In a meaningful, powerful evening on April 11, CBI, together with Chico Havurah, observed Yom HaShoah, the commemoration of the genocide of the Holocaust. Our featured speaker, a hero of the Holocaust, was Lubertus Schapelhouman, a man from Holland who, with his family, risked his life to resist the Nazis and save many Jews. Butte County, the City of Chico, and the Jewish Community of Chico presented Mr. Schapelhouman with plaques honoring his resistance and rescue efforts during the Holocaust and citing him as a role model for us all. A reception was held in his honor.

Special thanks go to Carol Edelman for organizing this service every year. To her committee: Jim Jessee and Ingeborg Johannsen from CBI, and Chico Havurah members Silona Reyman, Tony Valim, Kathleen Moran and Liz Michelena. To our candle lighters. To Ingeborg Johannsen, Nelda Jessee, and Bev Paull for putting together the reception.

For more stories on this theme of our Yom HaShoah service — stories of rescue and moral courage during the Holocaust — go to the website of the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous at <http://www.jfr.org/site/PageServer>. We encourage people to support this group—there are envelopes in our lobby as well.

From the President – Kids Ice Hockey in Metula

By Irv Schiffman

Nitsa and I are back from our month-long stay in Israel, the first two weeks of which we enjoyed touring the land with 17 other Chicoans. After the tour we stayed on for another two weeks, celebrating Passover and visiting with family and friends. We have family in Metula, the most northern city in Israel, and while there I learned that our nephew, Levav Weinberg, is participating in an exciting program to teach ice skating and ice hockey to over 250 Jewish, Arab and Druze youngsters.

Metula is the home of the Canada Centre, a recreation and sports complex built with funds from the Jewish community of Toronto. The Center houses Israel's only Olympic-size ice rink along with a junior ice rink, basketball court, bowling alley, swimming pools and sites for other activities. Israel's national ice hockey team trains and plays at the Centre, which also hosts the Israeli Figure Skating Championships. The Israeli ice dancing team of Roman and Alexandra Zaretsky, alumni of the Centre, came in tenth at the 2010 Olympics.

Levav is a 28-year-old fruit farmer who manages the family orchards, most of which are hard up against the Lebanese border. He is also a member of the local ice hockey team, the Metula Eggbeaters. Last Spring he met with Sid Greenberg, the visiting president of a Canadian group called "Friends of Israel Ice Hockey" to discuss ways in which to get more kids involved in ice skating and ice hockey. Greenberg agreed to raise the necessary funds if Levav would put together a program to achieve that end.

Working with some of his Eggbeater teammates, Levav approached nearby villages and kibbutzim and explained

the project. The response was enthusiastic. Participants include Arab kids from both sides of Ghajar, a split village which sits half in Lebanon and half in Israel. They include over 100 children from the Druze village of Majdal Shams on the Golan Heights, and over 100 Jewish youngsters. In all, 261 boys and girls, Moslem, Christian, Jewish and Druze, ages 5 to 11, were signed up to learn to ice skate and to play ice hockey.

Canadian contributors came through with a substantial budget and 200 pair of hockey skates, hockey sticks, knee pads and other hockey gear. Levav hired two women professional coaches and three male assistants. The plan is to spend the first year teaching the kids to ice skate and in the second year to teach them to play ice hockey and establish boy and girl hockey teams.

The teaching sessions started in January and will go through the end of June. They are held twice a week for 45 minutes a session with about 50 to 60 kids on the ice at any one time. However, the Druze parents asked to have only one session a week for 75 minutes. They explained that their kids were so excited at the opportunity to skate that they could not do their studies that day and would run to the bus station hours before the bus was scheduled to arrive.

Of course, as Levav explained to me, there is a bigger goal than just teaching kids to play ice hockey. Amidst the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, the real goal is to teach the kids to get along, to put differences aside and see how much they have in common. Levav hopes that the program will have a lasting impact on the kids, change attitudes and build friendships that can last a lifetime.

Gert Lenner Fund Helps Send CBI Kids to Jewish Summer Camp

By Stan Gottlieb

For the second year in a row CBI is helping to send eight of our young members to a Jewish summer camp, thanks to the generosity of Matt and Isabel Fine and the donations of our members to the Gert Lenner Campership Fund. The Jewish Federation of San Francisco, which helps to support Camp Tawonga, where many of our camp attendees will be this summer, provides additional financial aid, as do the Jewish summer camps themselves, thereby making it possible for CBI families to afford the several thousand dollar tuition for the 2- to 3-week camp sessions.

The financial aid that the Federation and the camps themselves provide is contingent on congregational financial support for their young member attendance, which is why it is so important for CBI to continue to provide that financial support through the Gert Lenner Fund. According to the Federation, CBI is one of the

leading congregations in the northern California region to consistently support camperships for all applicants. To assure that support, we are allocating a certain amount to a campership endowment as part of the Fund.

Therefore, for those of you have been making the Gert Lenner Fund a recipient of your donations celebrating the achievements, anniversaries, birthdays, bar and bat mitzvahs, and yahrzeits of your loved ones, we thank you and look forward to you continuing to do so. And for those of you who haven't donated to the Gert Lenner Fund, you still have time before the summer is here.



Sam Edelman wrote this poem in memory of his father who died on March 19, 2010. Several who heard Sam read it at the Shiva were deeply moved and asked if we might print it in the newsletter to share with others.

Poem in Memory of My Father

I sat there and watched you die
Breath one minute—none the next
Held your hand, kissed your head
Cried.

I sat there and watched you die
Thought only joy—the Alzheimer's and dementia gone
Your face at peace
Mouth open as if to say
I am free.

I sat there and watched you die
And in my mind flashed thousands of pictures
Of joy, of sadness, of regret, of anger, of fury, and remorse.
I sat there and watched you die
And cried.

I cried for the man I knew—the man I loved
I cried for the man who took me to work and taught me the art of persuasion
And the art of communication
I cried for the man who took me horseback riding
Picked me up when I fell
Put me back on the saddle and said I know you can, when I felt I couldn't.

I cried for the man who loved me
With a love unconditional
Who stood by me through the pain of adolescence
Who worked harder to pay for my college
Who made me smile with a joke or story
I cried for the man you were
Not for what your disease made you become,
A shell—breathing, and eating,
A body functioning without a brain
The great communicator unable to form a cogent sentence.

Yet
Even in the new world your horrible disease designed for you
You told your stories no one could understand but everyone got
You still made me laugh
You still made me smile
Because you smiled and you laughed
With no recognition of me.

I sat there and watched you die
Breath one minute—none the next
I watched my son kiss your now cold forehead
I watched my wife kiss your now cold cheek
I watched the staff file in one by one slowly to kiss you and cry
And then I too cried

With joy, with sorrow, with relief
A memory of you—a picture in my mind
You sitting at your office desk
Laughing

Our dog Thomas between your legs
Both of you happy

And
I
Cried.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 10 a.m. Sisterhood Bagel Brunch	26 5:30 p.m. B'nai Mitzvah Class	27 3:30 p.m. Religious School 6:30 p.m. Mah Jongg	28	29	30 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services	1 9 a.m. Adult Study 10 a.m. Torah Service
2 11 a.m. Bus to Jewish Heritage Israel Festival in Sacramento	3 5:30 p.m. B'nai Mitzvah Class	4 3:30 p.m. Religious School 6:30 p.m. Mah Jongg	5 12 p.m. Ritual Committee Lunch Meeting	6	7 5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat 6 p.m. Potluck Shabbat 6:45 p.m. Mishpachah Service led by Religious School	8 9 a.m. Adult Study 10 a.m. Torah Service
9	10 5:30 p.m. B'nai Mitzvah Class	11 3:30pm - LAST Religious School Class for semester 6:30 p.m. Mah Jongg	12 5:30 p.m. LAST Confirmation Class 7 p.m. CBI Executive Board Meeting	13	14 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services Shabbat Scholar Sam Edelman	15 9 a.m. Adult Study 10 a.m. Torah Service
16	17 5:30 p.m. LAST B'nai Mitzvah Class	18 3:30 p.m. Religious School Shavuot Education Program 5:30 p.m. Potluck Dairy Dinner and Welcome Holiday of the Giving of the Torah	19	20	21 7:30 p.m. Confirmation and Shabbat Services	22 9 a.m. LAST Adult Study 10 a.m. Torah Service
23 1 p.m. Sisterhood Meditation program Location TBA	24	25 Religious School Picnic	26 11 a.m. Sages' Brunch	27	28 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services	29 10 a.m. Torah Service
30	31	1 6:30 p.m. Mah Jongg	2	3	4 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services	5 10 a.m. Michael Puig's Bar Mitzvah

Shabbat Services for May

CBI celebrates Kabbalat Shabbat on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. often accompanied by instrumental music. (First Friday of the month is an exception. This is usually a Mishpachah Service starting at 5:30 p.m.). 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.

Saturday, May 1	9 a.m. 10 a.m.	Adult Study Class Torah Service Parashat Emor Kiddush sponsored by Rhonda Zisle in honor of her birthday.
Friday, May 7 Light Candles at 7:49 p.m.	5:30 p.m. 6 p.m. Approx. 6:45 p.m.	Tot Shabbat Potluck Shabbat Dinner Mishpachah Service led by Religious School
Saturday, May 8	9 a.m. 10 a.m.	Adult Study Class Torah Service Parashat Behar/Behukotai Steve Margolin reads Torah Kiddush sponsored by Loretta Steinke.
Friday May 14 Light Candles at 7:55 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat Shabbat Scholar Sam Edelman. His topic will be "The 'Special Relationship' Between the U.S. and Israel." Oneg is sponsored by the Sisterhood
Saturday, May 15	9 a.m. 10 a.m.	Adult Study Group Torah Service led by Rabbi Danan Parashat Bemidbar Kiddush provided by the Danans in honor of their newlywed daughter and son-in-law.
Tuesday, May 18	5:30 p.m.	Eve of Shavuot Potluck Dairy Dinner and Welcome Holiday of the Giving of the Torah
Friday, May 21 Light Candles at 8:02 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat and Confirmation Service Oneg sponsored by the Confirmation Class Families of 5770
Saturday, May 22	9 a.m. 10 a.m.	LAST Adult Study Group and Potluck Breakfast (siyyum). Torah Service Parashat Naso Kiddush sponsored by the Lewkowicz family in honor of Mark and Ted's Birthdays
Friday, May 28 Light Candles at 8:08 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg sponsored by Loretta Steinke in honor of her son Lance's birthday
Saturday, May 29	10 a.m.	Torah Service led by Rabbi Danan Parashat Beha'alotecha Aufruf (prenuptial blessing) for Terri Lind & Michael Richman Kiddush sponsored by the Sisterhood in honor of Terri & Michael.

Thanks to everybody who sponsored an Oneg or Kiddush in April: The Sisterhood, the Jessees, Ingeborg Johannsen, the Price Family, the Millers, Harriet Spiegel and Keren Carter. 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.

By Donna Greenberg

April showers bring May flowers. Our biggest fundraiser of the year, the Bagel Brunch, has already taken place, although not before this article was written, therefore, I do not have much to report. I know it was a grand success, as it always is, and a big thank you to Fran Halimi for organizing this large-scale event. I will report much more in next month's column.

I am happy to report the placemats that were created on March 7th at CBI were hand delivered and presented to the women at the Yoseftal Senior Center in Israel by Fran Halimi and Phyllis Cullen. The ladies were delighted with them and used them for their Seder. They loved them so much that they took them home instead of leaving them at the Senior Center. Who knew that cutting out garden pictures from magazines and pasting them to poster paper would create such lovely placemats? Thanks again to our artists!

Sisterhood 2009/2010 Calendar	
Jewish Meditation	May 23
End-of-the-year Brunch	June 13



Director Ile Schiffman (left) and members of the Yoseftal Senior Center in Kfar Saba, Israel, holding their colorful placemats, which were made for them by the CBI Sisterhood and presented to them by Sisterhood members Phyllis Cullen and Fran Halimi. (Photo by Phyllis Cullen)

Jewish Meditation is going to be presented on Sunday, May 23rd at 1 p.m. The place is still to be determined. Rabbi Julie will lead us in this beautiful and tranquil experience. You do not want to miss this. Watch your e-mail or snail mail for more detailed information.

Watch your mailboxes for an invitation to the ever-popular end-of-the-year brunch. Be sure to clear your calendars now for June 13th, 11:30 a.m. at Sierra Nevada. I hope many of you can attend, as we will review the past year and install our new officers for the new year.

It is once again time to present to you our slate of officers for the coming year. We will be voting by e-mail (regular mail for those without e-mail) for next year's officers. Voting may have taken place by the time you receive this newsletter, and we will post the results next month.

Shalom, Donna


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

Note: Due to Shavuot, the Senior Sages Brunch is moved to the fourth Wednesday this month, May 26th.

Keeper of Your Castle



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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Matthew & Isabel Fine

By Jim Jessee

Nelda and I interviewed Matt and Isabel Fine on a wet and blustery spring day in their beautiful home in the foothills above Oroville. The foothills were in their green finery, and the yards and gardens resplendent with spring color and wildlife. We watched a wild tom turkey strut through their garden. We found immediately many common interests and experiences, even places in New York and New Jersey we both knew. We are the also the same age, so share many generational commonalties, too. The conversation was well launched and proceeded briskly. We enjoyed tea and strawberries while looking at their beautiful landscape, home and artwork.

Matthew was born in Brooklyn, NY, but grew up in Lynbrook on Long Island. He began going to summer camp in upstate NY from about the age of four through his teens, later joined by his younger brother. His mother worked in the summer camp. Their father would visit on the weekends, commuting from NYC. While Matt and his brother were born and raised in the “The City,” they both had a love for nature and the outdoors that motivated them to eventually pursue careers that allowed them to live in the West. Matt’s brother joined the US Forest Service and now lives in Eugene, Oregon. Matt and Isabel found their way to Oroville, some 32 years ago, and moved into “them thar hills” where they are visited by coyote, deer and wild turkeys.

Matt wanted to be a veterinarian. He worked with and rode horses at camp from an early age and still rides expertly today. He found that unfortunately he had allergies to many animals, and while this deterred his pursuit of veterinary medicine, it stimulated an interest into his specialty, pulmonary medicine. He went to Rutgers University, in New Jersey, then an all-male institution, where he majored in biology. In his sophomore year the social director of his fraternity, AEPi, arranged a party with the women from Douglass College (Rutgers’ female equivalent college across town, “but much harder to get into,” as pointed out by Isabel) and placed himself “strategically,” he said, dressed in his best Levis, Madras shirt, and fatigue jacket. He spotted the belle of the party as she entered, one Isabel Lenner, an English major, and swooped in. Matt and Isabel married four years later.

Matt went to Downstate Medical School, back in Brooklyn. To put Matt through medical school Isabel worked at Kings County Hospital as a caseworker and took art courses in the evening at Brooklyn College. Matt did his internship and residency at Baltimore City Hospitals and Johns Hopkins, while Isabel completed a Masters in Social Work at the University of Maryland



and began her own professional career during those years. Then along came Beth. Those busy, demanding years directed Isabel’s days into being the best possible wife, mother, daughter, friend, volunteer and professional social worker she could.

After two years as an attending physician and instructor at Johns Hopkins, Matt sought opportunities out West, and flew all over the country checking out possible jobs and communities. He found his way to Oroville, where, 32 years ago, he took a job at Oroville Internal Medicine. He is today the Chief Medical Officer for the Oroville Medical Center, and the Director of Patient Safety. He pioneered this last position, and has been most attentive to and closely involved with the ever more important field of patient safety. Isabel, too, has specialized in medical social work, and created that position for Oroville Hospital where she worked for 17 years, and has worked as a medical social work consultant to all the major hospitals in the area.

Matt and Isabel researched and learned about Congregation Beth Israel even before they arrived in Oroville. They discovered Baltimore connections with one of the families in the congregation, the Geshekters, and later they found that Michael Leitner had a sister who was briefly married to Isabel’s older brother, and he remembered Isabel Lenner, as a teen, from the wedding. They joined CBI and were soon pressed into leadership. Both Matt and Isabel have served on the CBI Board and many committees over the years, and Matt was President for one year. With daughter Beth, they were very involved with the CBI education programs and other opportunities for children and teens. In time, Isabel’s parents Gert and Max, Gert’s

Matthew & Isabel Fine

two sisters and a cousin, all moved to the Oroville area. The Fines, and their extended family have made many significant contributions to CBI, especially in establishing the Gert Lenner Fund, named after Isabel's mother, who was a teacher and devoted to providing outdoor education and recreation activities, "campership," for our Jewish youth. Isabel said she "loves the CBI families and the sense of community here."

They are both perennial volunteers and community leaders, and do very much for the City of Oroville. They stated how much they love the people of Oroville who give so much of their time and energy to helping their own community. Isabel was one of the founders of the *Oroville Mirror*, a weekly newspaper, devoted to building good will, better communication, and citizenship during some particularly negative times. She said for many years she did community interviews for the newspaper that are very much like these that have been appearing in our CBI newsletter. Isabel was one of the creators of the Perry Mason Festival, celebrating Erle Stanley Gardner's famous series of books, many of which were influenced by his life in Oroville. Isabel was instrumental in the restoration and rededication of the Jewish Cemetery in Oroville, where both of their parents are now buried.

Daughter Elizabeth, better known as Beth, has also become a medical doctor. Perhaps because of her multi-generational growing up experiences with grandparents and great aunts close at hand, she became a geriatrician and is now an attending physician at Case Western Reserve University Hospitals in Cleveland, Ohio. Rabbi Julie performed the marriage of Beth and Alexander Smilovich at an elegant wedding in San Francisco. They had learned of each other through a friend of a friend who, in this very multicultural world, is a Hindu Indian-American, but who made sure that Beth would only meet nice Jewish boys. Alex, who had sworn off blind dates, decided while standing at the Western Wall in Jerusalem with Beth's phone number in his pocket, to give this one a chance. At Passover this year, we got to meet Matt and Isabel's grandchild, Hannah, who spent her first week, of hopefully many, in Oroville. You could not find more pleased or proud grandparents.



Hallie and Gabrielle Green; Lisa, Mia, Harvey and Lucy Rappaport; Garrett and David Green represented Chico and CBI at the first birthday party for the PJ Library held at the Sacramento Zoo, April 18



Ruth Gordon (and her daughter Sophie) staffed a station at CBI for the Chico Peace and Justice Center's spring community event, their Pathway to Peace walk on March 20. Many Chico families and lots of kids enjoyed this inspiring event and beautiful day.

Reminder

Bus Trip to Jewish Heritage Festival in Sacramento

(For those with reservations)

Departs from CBI, Sunday, May 2 at 11 a.m.

Don't miss the bus! Come at 10:45 to get your seat!

(Free snacks on board and festival entrance, but bring money for lunch and purchases.)

Donations

We would like to thank the following nadvanim:

Building Fund

Michael & Beverly Paull: In memory of Julien Bauer
Michael & Beverly Paull: In memory of Marilyn Belmonte
Michael & Beverly Paull: In memory of Beryl May

General Donations

Robert Alon
Hannah Blazewick
Oscar Dobkin
Bidwell Senior Care: In memory of Jack Edelman

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Al & Sandy Abrams
Norman & Jean Corwin: In honor of their great-grandson's naming ceremony
Samuel & Carol Edelman

Religious School Fund

Al & Sandy Abrams
Russell Shapiro & Heather Fisher

Yahrzeit

Michael & Wendy Diamond Mulcahy: In memory of the family's yahrzeits

Gert Lenner Fund

Matthew & Isabel Fine
Matthew & Isabel Fine: In memory of Jack Edelman and of Marilyn Belmonte

Kiddush

Terri Lind & Mike Richman

Birthdays in May

Samantha Levine..... May 1
Kristy Bergson May 2
Angela Archer..... May 3
Jessica Leitner May 6
Ryan Carter May 7
Renee Everett May 8
Karen Rogers May 8
Wendy Diamond Mulcahy May 10
Jonathan Trimboli..... May 11
Janice Gagerman May 12
Bonnie Megibow May 12
Samuel Edelman..... May 13
Loretta Steinke May 13
Emma Carden..... May 14
Russell Shapiro May 15
Casey Rubinoff..... May 20
Zadok Panunto May 21
Elizabeth Fine May 23
Ricky Jackson May 26
Jay Dakof..... May 27

Condolences

We at CBI extend our condolences to Katharine McAfee on the recent passing of her mother, Gerry Briggs.

May her memory be a blessing.

Anniversaries in May

Marshall Thompson & Andrea Lerner May 2
Derek & Magdalena Baum May 8
Michael & Sara Leitner May 17
David & Fran Halimi..... May 22
Norman & Jean Corwin..... May 23

Yahrzeits

Ethel Altman May 1
Remembered by Michael & Wendy Diamond Mulcahy
Alice Hightower..... May 4
Remembered by Loretta Steinke
Sylvia Bauer May 5
Remembered by Michael & Beverly Paull
Heinz Johannsen..... May 5
Remembered by Ingeborg Johannsen
Everett Levison..... May 5
Remembered by Helene Ginsberg & Andrew Sabersky
Anna Resnick May 6
Remembered by Larry & Sheri Trimboli and Joe & Rose Clark
Matilda Simon..... May 6
Remembered by Shirley Puritz
Leonard Shapiro May 8
Remembered by Deborah Shapiro
Bernard Evens May 11
Remembered by Nancy Evens & Peter Straus
Ben Cole..... May 13
Remembered by Al & Sandy Abrams
Erno Szaberszky..... May 15
Remembered by Helene Ginsberg & Andrew Sabersky
Marion Corwin May 16
Remembered by Norman & Jean Corwin
Merton H. Breslauer..... May 17
Remembered by Donna & Robert Greenberg
Mazal Danan May 19
Remembered by Avraham Danan & Julie Hilton Danan
Zion Danan..... May 19
Remembered by Avraham Danan & Julie Hilton Danan
Charles (Chil) Naiman May 20
Remembered by Steven & Maria Naiman
Estelle Bermann..... May 21
Remembered by Dave Bermann
Eshgah Halimi..... May 25
Remembered by David & Fran Halimi
Sandie Rambach May 25
Remembered by Arron & Dawn Rambach
Edward Kahn..... May 26
Remembered by Robin Black
Esther Brownfield..... May 27
Remembered by James & Nelda Jessee

CBI Office Hours

Administrative Assistant Liz Bohn,

e-mail: admin@cbichico.org

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

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

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Member-at-largeJohn Mitchell
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CBI News

Free to members, donations appreciated.
Newsletter items are due the 15th of each month
for the following month's publication.
Submit items to Nelda Jessee, nelda@jessee.org.
Layout design by Carla Resnick.

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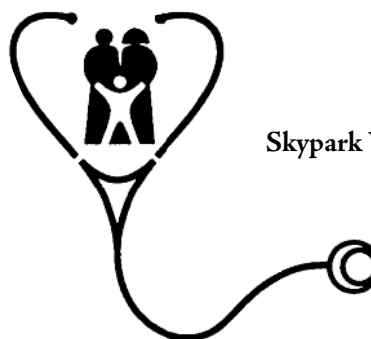
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Mark your calendar	
May 2	Jewish Heritage Festival in Sacramento
May 14	Shabbat Scholar Sam Edelman
May 18	Eve of Shavuot Celebration
May 21	Confirmation Service
June 5	Michael Puig Bar Mitzvah
June 12	Niculina Archer Bat Mitzvah

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 Seder 5770 Photo by D.A. Bermann