

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

CBI Seder April 19 at Canyon Oaks

Please Send in Your Reservation Form Today!

For the first time, Congregation Beth Israel will hold our annual community Passover Seder at Canyon Oaks Country Club. Rabbi Danan will lead a joyful and participatory Seder on the second night of Passover, Tuesday, April 19, at 6 p.m.

Please send in your reservation form today. Reservations are due in the CBI office by April 8 (and sooner even better!)

Canyon Oaks will cater the elegant event, offering you a choice of two entrées, kosher chicken or vegetarian. In order to encourage family participation, the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund will cover the cost of



5770 Seder at CBI

the meals for all children (ages 12 and under) of CBI members who make Seder reservations.

In past years, our wonderful Seder has sometimes been "plagued" by last-minute reservations and unpaid no-shows. In order to meet Canyon Oak's catering reservations deadline and cover our costs, we *must* have your reservation form and check in to the CBI office no later than Friday, April 8.

You'll find the reservation form on p. 9 of this newsletter. *We cannot take any reservations by phone or e-mail,* and we hope to limit walk-ins to Elijah the Prophet. Please insure your places at the Seder and help to make our event a success by making your reservation today!

Shabbat Scholar Sam Edelman Speaks on Changing Middle East

On Friday, April 15, 7:30 p.m., Dr. Sam Edelman will be our Shabbat Scholar. His topic is, "When Paradigms Fail: A Look at the Changing Middle East and Its Impact on Israel." Sam is Executive Director of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East (SPME)

and has been the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the American Jewish University. He is an Emeritus Professor of Communication Studies at Chico State and founded the program in Modern Jewish and Israel Studies.

The Last Days

Sunday, May 1, 2011 • 7 p.m. at CBI

Join us for a service and program featuring the Oscar winning Holocaust documentary by Steven Spielberg.

Followed by a presentation by Renee Firestone, Survivor of Auschwitz, who is featured in the documentary.

CBI Sisterhood Bagel Brunch

Sunday, May 15, 2011 • 10 a.m. —1 p.m.

Congregation Beth Israel • 1336 Hemlock, Chico

Adults: \$18 • Children (12 & Under): \$7

Bring Family and Friends For a wonderful time!

Money raised supports CBI's Religious School

More Shabbat Specials in April

Mishpachah Shabbat Features Talk With Andrea Lerner

Friday evening, April 1 is our monthly Mishpachah Shabbat. We begin with Tot Shabbat at 5:30, followed by Shabbat dinner. This month we will have a catered dinner from La Cocina, with a suggested donation of \$10 per adult or \$18 per couple or family. We will not have a full service this month. Instead, we'll keep it light by saying the blessings and singing Shabbat songs. Then after dinner, the kids will play Jewish-themed games in the Religious School building while adults have a talk and discussion with Andrea Lerner. Andrea is a member of our congregation and a Chico State Professor who serves on the Chico School Board. She will talk about issues facing our schools and be ready to answer questions from parents and other congregants.

Debbie Friedman Tribute April 29

Friday, April 29, 7:30 p.m., our Kabbalat Shabbat will be a tribute to the late gifted composer and innovator of Jewish music, Debbie Friedman. The service will feature songs by her, played by our band and sung by everyone. Carol Edelman is organizing this service, so let her know if you can help.

Neshama Yoga Returns April 30

Our second Jewish yoga program will be held on Saturday, April 30, 10:30 a.m., instead of our usual class and service. We are now calling it Neshama (soul, breath) yoga, since we found out that "Torah Yoga" is a registered trademark. Lance Ferris will teach yoga and Rabbi Julie will provide meditations and insights from Jewish mystical tradition related to the Torah portion *Kedoshim* (being holy). Wear comfortable clothes and bring your own mat, as well as a veggie dish to share afterwards at the Kiddush. This session is suitable for all levels, including using a chair for support.

Todah Rabbah

From Karen Rogers, Fundraising Chair

CBI had another huge success with our Silent Auction and everyone's input and help was greatly appreciated. I am looking forward to our next Silent Auction in December so start gearing up with ideas, food and more great auction items. More information will be coming during the year.

As always, this event could never happen without all the help from our members and friends. The following is our thank you list of everyone who contributed in many areas of need to make the Silent Auction such a wonderful fundraiser and fun evening.

I want to thank Irv and Nitsa Schiffman and Fran Halimi for working with me in checking in all the items for

the auction and for filling out the bid sheets. For helping set up all the tables and decorations on Saturday thanks go to Nitsa and Irv, Tim Carter, Rick and Karen Rogers, Bev Paull, Donna and Rob Greenberg, and Michael Mulcahy. For helping with the "tear down" after the Auction, thanks go to Tim Carter, Irv, Rick Rogers, David Halimi, Laurie Howard, Sara and Michael Leitner, and Donna and Rob Greenberg.

Thanks to Fran Halimi for the cheese and veggie platter, Stan Gottlieb and Irv for the wine, and for everyone who brought desserts and beverages. Thanks to Nitsa Schiffman, Leanna Rawley, Robin Black, Loretta Steinke, Anne Gottlieb and Sheri Trimboli for all the soups.

CBI would like to give a BIG Thanks to the following businesses for donating such great items to the Auction:

Diamond W, Tasha Cody, CBI Gift Shop, In Motion Fitness, Plant Barn, The Little Red Hen Gift Shop and their Nursery, Powell's Sweet Shoppe, Sierra Nevada Brewery, Made in Chico, Poison Apple Hair Salon, Robin Marie's Shoe Closet, Mundy & Co., Magnolia Gift & Garden, Bidwell Hair Cottage, Phoenix Bldg. Gift Shop, Pita Pit, Northern Star Mills, M Creations, A&J Party Place, Sarah Beach Hairdresser, Derm Bar, FACE, Heavenly Blue Fine Lingerie, Cotton Party, Needham Studios, Savannah James, Betty's on Broadway, 5th St. Clothing, North State Public Radio, Chico Florist, River Partners, Beauty Squared, Art Etc., Bidwell Perk, A Fresh Hair Studio, T. Bar, Sam's Hair Fantastic, Chico Beauty College, Peet's Coffee, Chico Cleaners and Caffe Malvina.

A BIG CBI thanks to the following members and friends:

The Rubinoffs, the Pollacks, the Passovoys, D.Alexander, the Rappaports, the Baums, the Schiffmans, the Rawleys, the Edelmanns, Eli Stern, the Halimis, Rabbi Julie & Avraham, Renée Everett, Laurie Feldman, Nelda Jessee, the Rogers, the Paulls, the Fines, the Evans/Strausses, the Zeichicks, the Mulcahys, the Ginsberg/Saberskys, Lisa Benaron, Laurie Howard, the Greens, the Carters, the Millers, the Corwins, Steve Margolin, Julie Brasch, Ed Abramson, Howard Wolff, Monica Zukrow/Green Construction, Pam Dakof, Peter Wolk, Janice Gagerman, the Gottliebs, and Carla Resnick.

A big thank you to Fran and David Halimi for all the work they did in cashing out everyone who bought auction items. If I have omitted anyone my apologies and our huge thank you for all your help. Thank you all.

Purim Party Praises!

CBI would like to thank all our members that helped to make our Purim Festival: our Rabbi, Keren Carter and ritual committee for organizing the day, Carol Edelman and Religious School, our band, Kristy and her wonderful cooking volunteers, the Purim players, and Avraham for reading the Megillah! Look for more Purim Post-Party Pictures in the May newsletter!

Thank you David and Rabbi for all your help!

continues on page 8

From Our Rabbi: Where Can We Find God in "Acts of God"?

by Rabbi Dr. Julie Hilton Danan

What does Jewish tradition teach us about natural disasters like the earthquake and tsunami in Japan? I would like to share some reflections on this topic from a Yom Kippur sermon that I gave at CBI in 2005. To read the full sermon, you can go to our website links page: <http://www.cbichico.org/about/rabbis-sermons/> and choose Yom Kippur 2766, 2005.

One explanation of why nature is not always kind comes from the two main names for the Divine in Jewish tradition: *Elohim* (God) and *Adonai* (Lord or Eternal).

Throughout the Bible, these two names for God recur again and again: *Elohim* and *Adonai*. Tradition equates *Elohim* with God's attributes of judgment and *Adonai* with God's attributes of mercy. Rabbi Harold Schulweis is the most recent teacher to emphasize this traditional Jewish explanation of our two experiences of God.

In the opening chapter of the Torah, creation is described as the work of *Elohim*. Hassidic thinkers pointed out that the name *Elohim* is equal in *gematria*, Hebrew numerology, to *ha-teva*, meaning "Nature." When we say "nature," we really mean God's creation, which is filled with God's Presence. So how is that equivalent to "judgment?" Nature is beautiful and uplifting. Many if not most of us find God, experience the *Shechinah* or Divine Presence, when we commune with nature. But nature can also be awesomely destructive. Nature has its laws, laws which are fundamental to our existence. Laws like gravity or chemical reactions are morally neutral. As the Talmud points out on several occasions, regardless of our moral intentions, "*Olam k'darko noheg*"-- the world follows its natural course. Nature has its own processes that are based on natural laws set in motion with the process of creation.

At the same time, Judaism has another name for God,



Adonai, translated "Lord," or "Eternal." Actually, *Adonai* is the substitute name that we use for God's four-letter sacred name, the *Yud-Hey-Vav-Hey*, which we no longer pronounce out of reverence for its sanctity. *Adonai* represents the transcendent aspect of God. Our lives are not limited by the laws of nature. We always have the possibility of transformation, of transcendence, of mercy and kindness, represented in the name *Adonai*. *Adonai* inspires the overflowing of love, courage, caring, and goodness that often follows the worst disasters.

...Dramatic one-time events grab the headlines, but probably the greater environmental threat to our planetary future comes from slow changes like deforestation, melting polar ice-caps, destruction of species and depletion of natural resources, the ongoing ravages of wars and conflicts, or the spread of preventable diseases...These slow natural disasters are acts of humanity.

...Natural disasters can bring out the worst in some people but surprisingly, they can bring out the best in far more people. They bring out the quality inspired by *Adonai*, the transcendent power of compassion and caring. Thus we have seen that in recent disasters, there has been an outpouring of *tzedakah*, or charity and good deeds to help others. What the Torah, what the prophets would tell us is: don't wait for a dramatic event to do these mitzvot.

If human beings could practice empathy, compassion, and giving to others on a daily basis, if we could reach out to conquer poverty, mend society, heal the environment and stop the "slow natural disasters" that are going on behind the headlines every day, then we would truly reach "heavenly days right here on earth," the coming of the Messianic era.

Rosh Chodesh Nissan for Women

Wednesday April 6 at 7 p.m.

Come and prepare spiritually for Passover, the New Year of Freedom. We will gather to explore the places of enslavement in our lives and transformations necessary to live our lives with intention. We will also enjoy the flavors of the new month and make an Omer Calendar. This monthly program is free for CBI Members, although preregistration is helpful so that plenty of art supplies are available. The next Rosh Hodesh is at CBI on Wednesday, May 4 at 7pm. The Hebrew month will be Iyar and encompasses the commemorations and celebrations of our sacred homeland, Israel. Please contact Keren Carter at 809-0303 or KerenChaya@comcast.net

Congregation Beth Israel Religious School Director Position Available

Congregation Beth Israel in Chico is seeking a director for its religious school.

The position runs from August through May. Interested persons may submit a résumé and/or cover letter of intent to apply to Liz at the CBI office. A job description can also be obtained at the CBI office.

From the President

By Irv Schiffman

Last month I was invited to Visiting Professor Gil Ariely's class, Government and Politics of Israel, where I spoke on the topic of environmental politics in Israel. My interest in Israeli environmental policy started back in 1975 when Nitsa and I spent a year away from Chico on kibbutz Ramot Manashe. During that time I was introduced to Zvi Evan, an Israeli on leave from the United Nations Environmental Program who was back in Israel to establish a UN funded experimental Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) in the city of Haifa.

The Unit was part of the UN Mediterranean Basin Plan and intended to serve as a model for other regional port cities concerned with problems of environmental management. The EPU was to provide professional advice to the local government on environmental matters. Zvi asked me if I would serve as a consultant to the Unit, primarily to prepare a checklist for environmental decision-making. Subsequently, when Zvi returned to his UN position in Geneva, he asked me to take over his role as head of the Unit. I had just received tenure at Chico State and decided not to accept his offer.

In 1979 we returned to Israel where I administered the Cal State International Program at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. By now the Israel Environmental Protection Service (EPS) had established eleven local EPUs and the director of the EPS, Uri Marinov, hired me to do an evaluation of EPU performance. I traveled around the country interviewing all eleven directors (fortunately they all spoke English – most of them had studied in either England or the US, including Marinov) and wrote up my report that was then published in the EPS journal, Biosphere. I found that most of the EPUs were short of professional staff and funding and that local officials were generally reluctant to take advantage of their expertise.

In 1982 I exchanged faculty positions with Shaul Amir, a professor at the Israel Institute of Technology (Technion) in Haifa, who taught for the year at Chico State while I taught classes at his institution. At the Technion I team-taught the class Comparative

Environmental Politics with Uri Marinov, he lecturing on Israeli environmental policy and I on American.

In 1986 and 1993 I again returned to Jerusalem to direct the Cal State International Program and on both occasions taught the course Israel Environmental Politics in the Hebrew University Overseas Program. In 1994, in the afterglow of the Oslo Accords, I worked with Nitza Ben Elissar, wife of Knesset member Eli Ben Elissar, to prepare a conference entitled "Will Peace in the Middle East Lead to War on the Environment?" Following the conference my wife and I were invited by the Ben Elissars to have lunch at the Knesset where we met Benjamin Netanyahu. My last sabbatical in Israel occurred in 2000 as a Visiting Scholar at the Technion where I conducted research on the urbanization of agricultural land due, in part, to the need to house the many immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

In each of my stays in Israel I noticed an advance in the government's attempts to deal with environmental problems: the Environmental Protection Service, formerly an office in the Interior Ministry, became a ministry of its own with both regulatory and enforcement authority. Major polluters – refineries, cement factories and electricity plants – were brought under regulatory control, and air and water pollution levels have been reduced. I witnessed a rise in the number of environmental interest groups, particularly at the local level, and now a serious effort is underway to elect members of a new green party to the Knesset.

But the country continues to suffer from ecological deterioration. A population that has grown sevenfold in sixty years along with an aggressive drive for economic development has taken its toll on open space, groundwater quality, waste disposal, and river preservation. Air quality continues to be a major problem and the onset of global warming may be partially responsible for the last seven years of drought. It will take the same Zionist zeal that created a successful nation state to deal with the ecological challenges that face Israel now and in the future.

Help Wanted—New Name Needed

Our religious school is looking for a name. Calling it "The Congregation Beth Israel Religious School" works but it's long and dull and we can do better! We want something more exciting and descriptive of our wonderful program. So, we are asking for your help! We are asking all you great innovative thinkers to find us a name with more pizzazz, more spunk, more glam.

Enter our contest and win a fabulous prize if your name is chosen. Give your suggested name to any one of our three judges (Rabbi Julie, Steve Naiman, or Carol Edelman) by April 30th. The winner and winning name will be announced at the end-of-year Congregation Beth Israel Religious School (see why we need something more lively...) celebration on May 24th.

Sisterhood/Haverot News

By Donna Greenberg

To participate is to benefit

“April showers bring May flowers!” Don’t you just love this time of the year—the weather is warming and flowers and trees are in bloom. This is the time of year that Passover preparations are starting in our homes. Many of us are bringing out our tried and trusted Passover cookbooks and recipes, dishes, pots and pans as we prepare for Seders.

Haverot/Sisterhood’s 21st Anniversary Party was held at the end of February and was an astounding success. Twenty-five ladies enjoyed a wonderful Thai dinner at the House of Bamboo. We all discussed how we celebrated our own 21st birthdays and got a great kick out of the different ways we all remembered and celebrated. To top off our meals, unbelievably delicious macaroons from Tin Roof were served. Thank you, Pam Dakof, for ordering and picking these up. The tables were decorated with lovely plants—African Violets, Cyclamens and Begonias, each beautifully wrapped in foil and bows that each Sister took home. Thank you, Terri Richman, for taking care of ordering and picking up the plants and making sure they were all in bloom. Again thank you’s go out to Kristy Bergson for arranging the restaurant reservation and Sue Mintzes for handling the RSVP’s while I was at a conference.

Another successful Women’s Issues occurred on Sunday, March 13th at the home of Loretta Steinke. We were a small, but mighty group of six women. Good questions of concern were asked and answered as well as our take on solving the world’s problems. Thank you, Loretta, for opening your lovely home and providing fruit, cake, brownies, chocolates and drinks. Thank you to those ladies who braved the rain to come out and participate. I just love how we talk freely and honestly with each other. Haverot/ Sisterhood plans to continue the Women’s Issues program, so, watch your e-mail/ regular mail for dates.

On April 10, 2011 Haverot/Sisterhood will offer an afternoon of Jewish meditation in preparation for Passover. Pam Dakof has offered her home with its lovely chimes for this special and relaxing afternoon. Rabbi Julie will lead us in a service of Jewish spiritual activity. Once again watch your e-mail/snail mail for an official invitation.

Mark your calendars for the always-popular major event, Haverot/Sisterhood’s biggest fundraiser of the year, the renowned **Bagel Brunch!** The date is fast approaching -- Sunday May 15th from 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. For the Bagel Brunch to be successful a lot of help is required whether before the event, during the event or after. Plan on helping. More information will be coming

soon. So, stay tuned. Help includes baking desserts, cutting up fruit, serving, arranging flowers, setting up, cleaning up, etc. In order for this event to be successful we need plenty of volunteers! Money raised goes towards helping CBI and the Religious School.

Haverot/Sisterhood continues our tradition of sponsoring the Friday night Onegs on the 2nd Friday of the month, with occasional exceptions. We are in need of helpers throughout the year. If called upon to help, please answer yes. And, we are now honoring our “Sisters” each month on their birthdays at the Sisterhood Onegs with a birthday blessing and a lovely card created by Nelda Jessee. Please volunteer your time. This is a wonderful mitzvah!

As I am writing this article, the board is hard at work putting together a slate for our Haverot/Sisterhood board for 2011/2012. If asked I hope you can say yes. I have been your President for the past 3 years and feel it is time for me to step down. New and fresh ideas are needed. I will stay on as an advisor/Past President and will take care of the monthly Onegs. Please come to our next Board meeting in April, date to be announced.

Feel free to call or e-mail (891-6439 or drg@mv.mv.com) if you have any questions, comments, concerns or willingness to help.

Shalom, Donna

Sisterhood 2010-2011 Calendar

Meditation..... April 10
Bagel Brunch..... May 15
End-of-the-year Brunch..... June 5

Sisterhood Board

President Donna Greenberg
Treasurer Kristy Bergson
VP/Interest Groups Pam Dakof
Secretary/Sunshine..... Sue Mintzes
Members-at-Large.... Loretta Steinke and Terri Richmond

HaSifriyah ☞ The Library Corner

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

—Sefer Hasidim

CBI Book Group

Wendy Diamond, CBI Library Chair

May 22 **Farewell Babylon by Naim Kattan.** Recounted by an important Canadian writer, this is a memoir of growing up as a Jewish boy in Baghdad in the 1940s.

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
March 5:30 p.m. Celebration of Abraham at LDS		3:30 p.m. Religious School 4:45 Exploring Judaism for Parents 6:30 p.m. Mah Jongg		6:30 p.m. Intermediate Hebrew	5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat 6:30 p.m. Mishpachah Shabbat	9 a.m. Adult Study 10 a.m. Torah Service
CROP Walk for Hunger Hillel-sponsored trip Kings' Game	7 p.m. Noam Bedein speaks on Campus	3:30 p.m. Religious School 4:45 Exploring Judaism for Parents 6:30 p.m. Mah Jongg	7 p.m. Rosh Hodesh	6:30 p.m. Intermediate Hebrew	7:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat to honor Debbie Friedman	9 a.m. Adult Study 10 a.m. Torah Service
Sisterhood Meditation at Pam Dakof's home		3:30 p.m. Religious School 4:45 Exploring Judaism for Parents 6:30 p.m. Mah Jongg	5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 6 p.m. <i>Unsettled</i> Movie on Campus 7 p.m. Full Board Meeting	6:30 p.m. Intermediate Hebrew	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Scholar Sam Edelman	9 a.m. Adult Study 10 a.m. Family Torah Service led by B'nai Mitzvah Class
	First Night of Passover Seder at Home	6 p.m. Congregational Seder at Canyon Oaks		6:30 p.m. Intermediate Hebrew	No service tonight	9 a.m. Adult Study 10 a.m. Torah Service
Eve of Yom Tov		3:30 p.m. Religious School Model Seder 6:30 p.m. Mah Jongg	5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class		7:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Honoring Debbie Friedman	10:30 a.m. Neshama Yoga
May Yom Hashoah Service		3:30 p.m. Religious School 4:45 Exploring Judaism for Parents 6:30 p.m. Mah Jongg		6:30 p.m. Intermediate Hebrew	5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat 6:30 p.m. Mishpachah Shabbat	9 a.m. Adult Study 10 a.m. Torah Service

Shabbat Services for April

CBI celebrates Kabbalat Shabbat on Fridays at 7:30 p.m., often accompanied by instrumental music, except for the first Friday of the month when we usually have an early Mishpachah (Family) Shabbat. 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. **Once a month we will offer alternative Shabbat Experiences in place of our usual schedule.**

Friday, April 1 Light Candles at 7:12p.m.	5:30p.m. 6:00p.m. 6:45p.m.	Mishpachah Shabbat Tot Shabbat Dinner (Veggie Taco Bar by La Cocina) Andrea Lerner will speak on issues relating to the CUSD. Childcare will be provided during the talk.
Saturday, April 2	9 a.m. 10 a.m.	Adult Study Class Torah Service led by Rabbi Danan Parashat Tazria/Shabbat Hahodesh Kiddush sponsored by Harriet Spiegel in honor of her birthday.
Friday, April 8 Light Candles at 7:20p.m.	7:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg provided by the Sisterhood.
Saturday, April 9	9 a.m. 10 a.m.	Adult Study Class Torah Service Parashat Metzora Kiddush provided by the Passovoys
Friday April 15 Light Candles at 7:27p.m.	7:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat Shabbat Scholar Sam Edelman Oneg provided by the Danans in honor of Liora's & Arielle's Birthday
Saturday, April 16	9 a.m. 10 a.m.	Adult Study Class Parashat Acharei Mot Torah Service led by B'nai Mitzvah Class Kiddush provided by Keren Carter & Carol Edelman
Monday , April 18 Light Candles at 7:30p.m.	NO Service	First Night of Passover Passover Seder at Home
Tuesday, April 19 Light Candles at 8:31p.m.	6 p.m.	Second Night of Passover Congregational Seder at Canyon Oaks Country Club (see page 1)
Friday, April 22 Light Candles at 7:34p.m.	No Service	Enjoy Shabbat at home
Saturday, April 23	9 a.m. 10 a.m.	Adult Study Class Torah Service – Shabbat of Passover including Hallel and a short Yizkor Kiddush provided by Robin Black in honor of her friend Sally Maggio
Monday April 24 Light Candles at 7:36p.m.	NO Service	Eve of Yom Tov
Friday April 29 Light Candles at 7:41p.m.	7:30p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat Tribute to Debbie Friedman. Oneg provided by Rhonda Zisle in honor of her birthday and in memory of Debbie Friedman.
Saturday, April 30	No class or formal service 10:30a.m.	Neshama Yoga with Lance Ferris and Rabbi Danan followed by a Potluck Kiddush

Thanks to the Greens, Shapiros, Loretta Steinke, Sheri Trimboli, Cheryl Jackson, and Hillel for providing Oneg & Kiddush in March.

Call Betty Senseman, 345-7727, to schedule your Oneg or Kiddush. To celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or any special event with the community, please provide a Friday night Oneg or a Saturday Kiddush this year. **Preferably make and serve it yourself**, or alternately make a donation of \$25 (Saturday Kiddush, \$50), and we'll find a volunteer to prepare it.

Religious School

By Carol Edelman

Where to begin? So much is happening at the religious school for the remainder of the school year. I gasped when I counted Tuesdays—we only have 6 classes left between now and the 24th of May when we have our end-of-year-party. I had to count it two more times because I couldn't believe we had so few school days left. But these remaining weeks are jam-packed with special events in addition to our Tuesday classes. April 1st is a Mishphacha Shabbat with a short service, dinner and Andrea Lerner coming to talk about CUSD and answer our questions. Saturday, April 16th is another important date!!! Please come and watch our talented B'nai Mitzvah class lead the morning service. Come to kvell; you will be impressed with what our students can do. And plan to stay for lunch after the service. There's no school on April 19th—that's a seder night. We will celebrate Passover at school on Tuesday, April 26th. We put invitations in all the Purim baskets for our sages to join us so we hope to have a multi-generational seder led by Rabbi Julie and lots of delicious Passover foods (we'll need help; let me know if you can be there). One more very special event—Friday, May 6th. It's our last Mishpacha service during the school year—and this one is being led by the students in Ruth's class...another night to kvell together and eat together!

Purim was so much fun. Thank you to everyone who helped with our Purim celebration, including all of the students who helped make our own megilla. It was a yucky, rainy, windy day outside—but that didn't stop us from celebrating. This year's carnival was a blast, with a special 6-foot Haman-tossing booth that was built by Rick Rogers and painted by Emily Carter. It was a wonderful ball tossing game that the kids enjoyed and that we can use for many years to come. Thank you Rick and Emily for creating this for us! The artistically talented Ariely girls, Leron and Mia, also made us a delightful pin-the-costume-on- Haman-and-Ester game that was a big hit at our carnival, and that we can use again and again at future Purims. We also want to thank Aaron Rambach for creating a "fishing" booth for us, Sarah Lewkowicz for the face painting, and Ruth Gordon for guiding all the kids in hamantaschen making with much help from Hannah Puig. Lisa Rappaport ran a play dough activity for our youngest "carnivalers" and Gil Ariely (using his own camera and equipment on loan from the Zeichicks) ran the photography booth. Sharon (Kaplan) and Kristy (Bergson)—thank you both for helping out with the game booths. And kudos to all of the many families that contributed goodies for our mishloach manot baskets delivered to our sages and to Cheryl Jackson, Kristy Bergson and Hannah Puig who spent a lot of time putting the baskets together with the kids. Lots of people gave time and energy to our carnival, and when lots of people are involved, it is triple the fun. Thank you all for contributing to our wonderful afternoon.

Todah Rabbah continued from page 2

Mitzvah Day

Thank you to chairperson Phyllis Cullen and some sixty volunteers of all ages who cleaned CBI, worked in the yard, painted, made placemats for Meals on Wheels, sewed purses for our senior friends in Kfar Saba, Israel, and bought and sold books to raise money for a meal that we'll make for the Torres Shelter.

Unsettled at Chico State

Chico State Hillel and CAMERA will be showing the film *Unsettled* on April 13th at 6 p.m. in Langdon 302. The film is about 6 very different young Israelis during the Gaza withdrawal in summer of 2005.

Director Adam Hootnick will be in attendance to lead discussion and answer questions after the film. There will also be delicious refreshments afterwards. Hopefully everyone can come to this important event!



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Executive Board

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Sunshine and Mitzvot	Sue Mintzes
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Member-at-Large	John Mitchell
Member-at-large.....	Elisa Kleiman

The CBI newsletter is edited by David Zeichick.
Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month. Send submissions to david@zeichick.com. Layout by Carla Resnick.

CBI Office Hours • Administrative Assistant Liz Bohn

e-mail: admin@cbichico.org

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

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

Calling All Religious School Parents and Kids

by Stan Gottlieb

Camp Tawonga at Yosemite is taking applications for attendance and camperships for their 1- and 2-week summer sessions. For those who need financial assistance, the Gert Lenner fund at CBI plus the Tawonga endowment fund will help pay most of the cost for your child to attend and experience a Jewish camp in a warm and nurturing environment. But you have to apply by April 1st to have the best chance at assistance from the Tawonga endowment fund. Camp sessions are available for children entering 2nd grade in August, 2011 (that's a 1-week session), on up to teenagers. Last year the Gert Lenner fund

provided \$400 for each of our campers, and we should be able to provide at least that much this year due to the generous support of the CBI Sisterhood and our congregants. Please go to the website, tawonga.org and apply online for camp and financial assistance, and let Liz know when you've submitted your application so we can let Camp Tawonga know what financial assistance the Gert Lenner fund is providing for your child. Tawonga always tries to provide more when they know the camper's congregation is participating.

Please call me if you have any questions. I know your child will treasure the Tawonga experience.

Congregation Beth Israel's Community Passover Seder



Led by Rabbi Julie Danan

Canyon Oaks Country Club, 999 Yosemite Drive, Chico

Date is: Tuesday, April 19, 2011 • Time is 6 p.m.

Elegant Full-Course, Traditional, Seated Seder Dinner:
Your choice of Kosher Chicken or Vegetarian Entrée

Adults: Members \$30, Non-Members \$40 • Children Under 12 FREE, Non-Member children \$20

Cut here & mail

Reservations and Checks are due by Friday, April 8, 2011

CBI Community Seder Reservation Form

Name, phone number _____

No of Adults @ \$30 _____ @ \$40 _____ No of Children FREE _____ No of Children @ \$20 _____

No of Chicken Entrée _____ No of Chicken Entrée _____ No of Chicken Entrée _____

No of Vegetarian _____ No of Vegetarian _____ No of Vegetarian _____

Total No Attending _____ Total Amount of Check Enclosed \$ _____

We are delighted to hold this year's Seder at Canyon Oaks Country Club and we must strictly adhere to their reservation deadlines. We MUST have your reservation form and check in the CBI office no later than Friday, April 8 in order to insure your place at the Seder. Drop off or mail to: CBI, P.O. Box 3266, Chico, CA 95927. We cannot hold places based on phone calls or emails. If you require financial consideration, please call Rabbi Danan, 342-6146.

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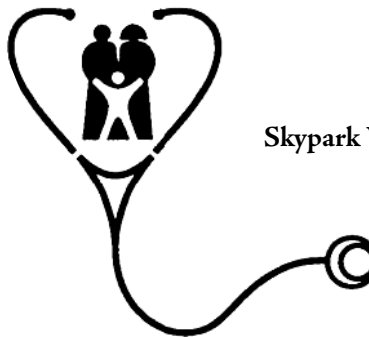


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Contact the office at 342-6146 to find out how.

Noam Bedein at Chico State

April 4th, 7 p.m., Ayres 106

Noam Bedein is the director, journalist, and photographer for the Sderot Media Center, which is a non-profit organization that serves as a news agency. It was founded to uncover the voices of a population marginalized by the Arab-Israeli conflict. The residents of Sderot and the Western Negev suffer daily from the terror of Kassam attacks. Today, the Sderot Media

Center represents about a million southern Israeli citizens living under the threat of Gaza rockets. Many people are critical of measures Israel takes towards Gaza but before one judges these actions, it is important to be aware of all the Israeli citizens being targeted and victimized by terrorists from Gaza. That is why it is so important to have a man of Noam Bedein's stature share his experiences and knowledge about the conflict.

Donors

We would like to thank the following congregants and friends:

Building Fund

Roxanne Pollack: In memory of
Aghdas Abadia Halimi

Carmel Fire Restoration

Michael & Jennifer Carden
Samuel & Carol Edelman
Stanley & Anne Gottlieb
Irv & Nitsa Schiffman
David & Kelly Zeichick

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Al & Sandy Abrams
Sharon Kaplan: Thank you for the
parent classes
Karen & Richard Rogers

Rabbinic Studies Fund

Chaim & Lisa Rappaport

Religious School Fund

Russell Shapiro & Heather Fisher

Gert Lenner Fund

Matthew & Isabel Fine: In memory of
Aghdas Abadia Halimi

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

Anniversaries

David & Gabrielle Green.....April 1
Scott & Jona Pressman.....April 3
Monica Zukrow & David Green....April 27
Jeremy & Amy Miller April 30

Birthdays

Eli StillmanApril 1
Oscar DobkinApril 5
Ella ShapiroApril 6
Callie Kate MarstersApril 9
Aaron Einhorn..... April 10
Arielle Danan April 15
Karen Sorsby April 15
Jamey PaullApril 17
Dawn RambachApril 17
Molly SteindorfApril 17
Elisa Kleiman April 20
Norman Corwin April 22
Harriet Spiegel April 22
Jennifer (Bunny) Keterman April 25
Liora Danan April 26
Ethan Halimi April 26
Rhonda Zisle April 29
Joe Clark April 30
Audrey Zeichick April 30

Yahrzeits

Yitzhak Ben ZviApril 4
Remembered by Irv & Nitsa
Schiffman
Charles Evens.....April 6
Remembered by Peter Straus &
Nancy Evens
Abe Osheroff.....April 6
Remembered by Michael & Wendy
Diamond Mulcahy
Jack Edelman.....April 9
Remembered by Samuel & Carol
Edelman
Paula Berman.....April 10
Remembered by Joel & Debra
Berman

Leon Kahn April 11
Remembered by Robin Black
John RogersApril 11
Remembered by Karen & Richard
Rogers
Phil Abrams April 13
Remembered by Al & Sandy
Abrams
Jeff Forrest April 13
Remembered by Renée Everett
Maurice Dakof April 15
Remembered by Irma Dakof
Maurice Dakof April 15
Remembered by Pamela Dakof
Max Ginsberg..... April 15
Remembered by Helene Ginsberg
& Andrew Sabersky
Barbara Lind April 15
Remembered by Mike & Terri
Richman
Beatrice Zucker.....April 17
Remembered by Louis & Selda
Arnoff
David Tochterman..... April 19
Remembered by Mendel & Nadine
Tochterman
Judith Mintzer Davis..... April 20
Remembered by Wendy Marsters
Maria Neder April 22
Remembered by Derek &
Magdalena Baum
Lizzie Grossman April 23
Remembered by Deborah Shapiro
Irving Bernard Kremer..... April 28
Remembered by Marjorie Kremer
Marrietta Price April 28
Remembered by Jess & Rene Price
Isidore Diamond April 29
Remembered by Michael & Wendy
Diamond Mulcahy

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Mark your calendar	
April 1: Mishpachah Shabbat with Andrea Lerner	
April 15: Shabbat Scholar Sam Edelman	
April 18: First Passover Seder at Home	
April 19: Community Seder at Canyon Oaks Country Club	
April 29: Debbie Friedman Tribute	
April 30: Neshama Yoga with Lance Ferris	
May 1: Yom Hashoah	
May 15: Bagel Brunch	

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 about 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. with an early family service the first Friday of the month, 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*.



Kristy Bergson and Sharon Kaplan at Purim Party