

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

Festival of Lights! by Donna Greenberg, Social and Cultural Chair

“Oh Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah, come light the Menorah. Let’s have a party, we’ll all dance the hora...”

Come and celebrate Hanukkah with CBI at the ARC Pavilion, 2040 Park Avenue, **Thursday, December 22nd** from **6 – 8 p.m.** We will be celebrating the third night of Hanukkah! Once again the ARC has generously donated their facility to our synagogue! As a tzedakah project to help those less fortunate, please bring items to be donated to the Torres Shelter. Please check their webpage to see what is needed: <http://www.chicoshelter.org/get-involved/donate/wish-list>.

Join us as we celebrate the festival of lights with favorite traditions—latkes smeared with sour cream and applesauce prepared by our fabulous crew, sufganiyots, and singing and dancing with our talented CBI band. And who knows, maybe a surprise from our Shul school students! Remember to bring your Menorahs so that we can light candles on the 3rd night of Hanukkah, and recite the blessings together!

The CBI GIFT SHOP will be set up to sell their outstanding gift items during the party. Come browse, come spend—remember the money comes back to support programs at CBI. Haverot will also be donating and handing out dreidels and gelt to the children.

A December to Remember

Food, Family, Torah and Joy through Movement

Rawbar Shabbat Dinner

Friday, December 2nd, Catered Mishpachah Shabbat

Our December 2nd our Mishpachah Shabbat will have a very special menu, catered by Rawbar Restaurant. A donation of \$20 per family is requested to cover costs and help us continue to offer these Shabbat dinners. There will be a Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m., then dinner at 6 p.m., followed by a family-friendly service for all ages with a special pre-Hanukkah theme. Sign up at Shul School or RSVP to the CBI office, 342-6146, admin@cbichico.org.

Shabbat Scholar Jed Wyrick

Friday, December 9, 7:30 p.m.

Prof. Jed Wyrick is our Shabbat Scholar on December 9th. His talk will address the Torah portion “Vayishlach.” Jed is the chair of Religious Studies and Director of the Modern Jewish and Israel studies programs at Chico State. As an undergraduate at Brandeis, Jed studied the languages, literatures, and cultures of ancient Greece, Rome, and Israel. He received a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Harvard, emphasizing the intersection of classical and biblical studies. Haverot Sisterhood will provide the Oneg Shabbat that evening.

Cost for the evening (including dinner) is \$8, \$4 child (\$20 maximum per household). Where else can you get such yummy food and great entertainment!



What a bargain! Maybe you can win your money back by buying some raffle tickets for the raffle!

Let’s fill the hall and enjoy the evening with glowing candles, spinning dreidels, joyous Hanukkah songs and lively dancing.

To offer help with cooking, set-up or clean up, please call Donna Greenberg, 891-6439 or email donna.greenberg@comcast.net.



The Annual CBI Silent Auction



*Saturday, December 10, 2011
at 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.*

*...invites one and all for an evening of Fun,
Food and Excitement.*

Please join us for wine, cheese, appetizers, soups, desserts and hot apple cider. Come schmooze and bid on fabulous items! Bring friends and neighbors!

You may drop off donations at the Schiffman’s home Sunday, December 4th after 1 p.m. or Noon to 4 p.m. Friday, December 9th at CBI.



This is an adult event benefitting our Religious School. Call Karen Rogers at 321-2227 for questions or to make donations.



This will be a very short article from your very busy president. I would like to thank all of you for your timely renewal of your CBI membership. We are a small but generous community. It is because of your generosity that we can afford our own building, religious school, staff, and, most importantly, a full time Rabbi. Thank you.

In the spirit of membership I would like to also mention CBI's new Refer a Friend program. This program gives congregants 10% off their membership when they bring in new congregants.

The first to take advantage of the new program are Lisa and Harvey Rappaport, who introduced Jack Kessler to the congregation. Jack joined this year, and we cut the Rappaports a check for 10% of their dues. But there's more to the story. The Rappaports turned around and donated the proceeds back to CBI, 50% to the Shul School and 50% to the Torres Community Shelter. That's a mitzvah and a win-win for all involved!

CBI ~ Membership Moments by Kristy Bergson, Vice President Membership, Haverot Sisterhood Treasurer

I am so proud to announce that our 2011-2012 CBI Roster will be distributed this month via email, snail mail, and in person in record time! With an all hands-on-deck approach, it has been a busy fall. I would like to give special thanks to Rabbi Julie for her guidance and keen sense of our members, to Liz Bohn, CBI's administrative assistant, for her patience & time, Stan Gottlieb for his shoulder to lean on & positive praise, David Zeichick for rapid email responses and to all of our wonderful members who offer me friendship & strength. Many people envy me for holding this position and let me say to them, it has been a joy to connect with so many of you over these last few months. I am excited to start on my next task... *just being present at all the many superb events, magnificent programs and soulful services that CBI has to offer!* L'Chaim! Kristy



Breaking News!

CBI has received a \$3000 Community Development Grant from the Jewish Federation of the Greater Sacramento Region, toward our Sephardic and Middle Eastern Jewish Festival. Mark your calendars for the weekend of **February 24-26, 2012**, for a special Sephardic Shabbat and a concert with Yuval Ron, celebrated performer of Middle Eastern music!



Alternative Shabbat Program: Tai Chi Chih and Torah Saturday, December 17, 10:30 a.m.

On Saturday, December 17th, we'll offer something completely new (maybe in the world!): Tai Chi Chih and Torah! CBI member Carol Wong, the only certified Tai Chi Chih—Joy Through Movement—instructor in the Northstate, will lead us in some easy-going movement exercises for all ages and ability levels. Dress comfortably and wear comfortable shoes. Rabbi Danan will lead a meditation on light geared to Hanukkah and share some informal Torah teachings. Bring a brunch type dish to share for a POTLUCK Kiddush afterward. We are also looking forward to the return of Neshama Yoga with Lance Ferris in the New Year!

Kiddush to Honor Danan-Schwartz Newlyweds, December 24



The Danans will host a Kiddush on December 24, after the 10 a.m. Torah service, in honor of their daughter Shira Danan and her husband, Adam Schwartz. The newlyweds will be visiting from New York City. The entire congregation is invited. RSVP to the Danans, 343-6337, rabi@cbichico.org, if you are coming, so that they know how much delicious Moroccan food to prepare!

Winter Break Shabbat Schedule

Things slow down over "Winter Break" in our college town, so our Shabbat service schedule is modified at the end of this month into the beginning of January. Dec. 17 will be a special Alternative Shabbat Program: Tai Chi Chih and Torah. There will be no services on Friday night, Dec. 23, the night after our congregational Hanukkah party, but there will be a Saturday service on Dec. 24, with Kiddush sponsored by the Danans in honor of their daughter Shira and her husband, Adam. There are no Shabbat services the last weekend in December.

On the first Shabbat in January, we will not have a Friday night Mishpachah Shabbat; instead we will start a new tradition: Pajama Havdalah! On Saturday night, January 7, families will celebrate Shabbat with a theme of the "Bedtime Shema." The evening will include stories for different age levels and refreshments, and everyone will get something to take home. In addition, a Torah service is planned for January 7. The Shabbat morning 9 a.m. Adult Study class meets through Dec. 10, and then resumes on January 14.



“Those who hope for the Eternal will renew their strength. They will mount up with wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not grow faint.” I was astonished to read that in the *haftarah* for *Parashat Lech-Lecha* (from Isaiah, Chapter 40). Not that I haven’t read that *haftarah* before. But in perfect synchronicity, it appeared in the readings on the day before I was to run my first half marathon. About 18 months ago, I could basically run down the block without getting winded, and now I was setting out to run 13.1 miles! I memorized the verses in Hebrew and recited them as a kind of mantra when I needed a boost while running the Almond Bowl Half Marathon on November 6. And I made it!

So what’s Jewish about running, or about any kind of physical exercise for that matter? An apocryphal Woody Allen quip goes that, “I grew up thinking that Jews have bodies just to keep our heads from rolling around.” The stereotype is that Jews are interested in the life of the mind and soul over the physical. In fact, one of the themes of Hanukkah is the contrast of Greek/Hellenistic culture, devoted to the body, and traditional Judaism, devoted to the soul.

Of course, stereotypes are just that: stereotypes. Today’s Jews are just as likely as anyone else to be concerned with health and fitness. And in fact, Judaism has always valued those things. Maimonides, the great medieval rabbi, was also a doctor who taught that caring for our bodies is a sacred obligation. In our Shabbat morning prayers (p. 238 in our Siddur), we find this very “embodied” prayer: “Every *mouth* will offer thanks to you...every *knee* will bend, every upright *body* will bow...and every *heart* will be in awe of you, and every *inner organ* sing out to your name—as it is written, ‘Let all my *bones* declare: THE INFINITE!’” Classical Judaism simply never embraced a sharp dichotomy of body and soul, of matter and spirit (which ironically enough comes from the same Hellenistic world that also glorified the body). As Jews, we are instructed to sanctify the body and its needs, not reject them.

Judaism sees life as a holistic whole. So rather than separating our spiritual and physical lives, we can integrate them. We can make our physical exercise into part of our spiritual practice. I often include Hebrew songs or prayers in my running music on my iPod. Debbie Friedman’s song, “Arise, Devorah!” really gave me a second wind near the end of the half marathon. I also found some Jewish prayers for running a marathon in *The Book of Sacred Jewish Practices*, Rabbi Irwin Kula and Dr. Vanessa Ochs, eds. (Jewish Lights), and shared them with other runners in the congregation. And just doing our physical exercises with full presence and attention to our breath, our natural surroundings, and the integration of body and soul can be a very spiritual practice.

You can also do some great *tzedakah* with exercise. Many of our members have participated in runs, bike rides, and walks for charity or medical research and sometimes raised significant amounts. Sports and fitness can also develop our *middot*, our character qualities. For me, running teaches me strength, perseverance, and of course humility (because I’m not very fast!). I have to enjoy what I’m doing and not worry that (most) others are faster. It’s all about the process of

improving myself, rather than comparing myself to others.

The Maccabiah games are a great way for young Jewish athletes, starting in their teens, to get together, compete in friendly games, and also engage in community service. To learn more, visit <http://www.jccmaccabigames.org/> and <http://www.maccabiah.com/>. It’s pleasantly ironic that the Maccabees, the heroes of Hanukkah and opponents of Hellenism, eventually gave their name to these “Jewish Olympics.”

I found out that we have a lot of runners at CBI. Joining me at the Almond Bowl were David Green, running his first full marathon after doing nine half marathons, and the marathon *winner* Scott Dakof, son of CBI member Pam Dakof. Steve Naiman is training for an upcoming marathon this spring, the latest of many for him. Our president David Zeichick, treasurer Stan Gottlieb, and member Robin Black have all run marathons, and Robin placed internationally in several Ironman triathlons! Other CBI runners include Mike Panunto, Shul School director Lisa Rappaport, and my running buddy Laurie Howard, as well as several of our teens who run track, including Molly Steindorf, our latest Bat Mitzvah. I’m sure that there are many more of you out there, so let me know. Other CBI members are serious bike riders, hikers, swimmers, tennis and golf players, walkers, yogis, dancers, weight lifters, coaches, race volunteers, and instructors in yoga, water aerobics, and Tai Chi Chih! Whatever your sport or activity, it’s a mitzvah to take care of your body as the partner of your soul. Every aspect of life can be a way to serve God.



Rabbi Julie looks happy after completing her first half marathon



Left: CBI Member David Green (one of two with that name at CBI!), at the starting line, completed his first full marathon

Right: Scott Dakof, son of CBI member Pam Dakof, won the Almond Bowl Marathon

On November 8th I received the news that my uncle Lenny passed away at the age of 80. Lenny was a mover and a shaker, and in the 18 months that he lived in Chico he played the key role in the revival of Congregation Beth Israel and the purchase of our present sanctuary.

Dr. Leonard Kent came to Chico in 1969 to organize and serve as first dean of the graduate school at Chico State College, soon to be Chico State University. He also taught English Literature at the university.

Coming from New Haven, Connecticut, Lenny was unhappy to find a very small Jewish community (perhaps 25 families) with no rabbi, irregular services, and without a permanent home for the congregation and its Torah scroll that the Tochtermann family had donated to the congregation.

With his indefatigable energy and good humor, Lenny was able to persuade 10 families - Jews and "almost Jews" to donate \$1,000 each for the down payment for our present building and within five years the small remaining mortgage was paid off and the building was ours free and clear. Uncle Lenny also organized the CBI religious school and he thought that to be one of his most



Leonard Kent, Uncle of Nitsa Schiffman

important contributions.

I met my father's brother, Lenny, when I was 10 months old as he accompanied his parents on a visit to Israel. I met him for the second time when I left Israel to visit my uncle and family in Chico in the fall of 1969. Lenny insisted that I remain here to finish my B.A. at Chico State and invited me to stay with his family, Aunt Francis and my eight- and nine-year old cousins. It was an amazing year for me and also for CBI.

In early 1971 Lenny and family returned to Connecticut where he assumed the presidency of Quinnipiac College. It was hard to believe that he was leaving so soon, and a bit scary for me to be left without family. But I "made it" and so did CBI, the community becoming bigger and stronger because of the contributions of Lenny and others. In those early years, nearby communities envied our small congregation for having its own temple building, regular services and a program of Jewish education.

I will miss my uncle Lenny.
May his memory be blessed.

The Motzi Mitzvah Project is off and rising!



Join us December 2nd, 9th, 16th, or 30th

To participate as a baker or order a challah contact:

Chaim Rappaport, harveyrappaport@yahoo.com, 530-345-9362



Mia (left) and Lucy (right) Rappaport hard at work.



Lisa and Chaim Rappaport, and Russell Shapiro adding their magic touch.



Haverot Happenings by Sue Mintzes, Haverot President

We are certainly interested in Health Care legislation and Georgie Summers gave us a lot to ponder. Thank you to Karen Rogers for inviting such a stimulating guest to our Women's Issues afternoon.

As a result of our discussion of some of our personal issues, Carol Wong offered to teach us Tai Chi Chih and gave us a demonstration. If you missed this afternoon activity, just watch for news about Tai Chi Chih classes. Kristy Bergson will be organizing this effort. I, for one, am really looking forward to these classes.

Speaking of the holistic and the spiritual, we are inviting our sisters to an afternoon with Rabbi Julie of meditation Jewish style. This event was popular last year and so we are looking forward to clearing our minds and bodies of unnecessary clutter. Put the date of January 22 at 2 p.m. at Pam Dakof's house on your calendar right now.

Thank you, Nelda Jessee for coordinating and baking for the Sisterhood oneg on November 11. We hope everyone will join us December 9 and January 13 for our Sisterhood sponsored onegs and birthday recognitions. If you can help with either December 9 or January 13 onegs, please contact at Donna Greenberg by phone 530-891-6439 or email donna.greenberg@comcast.net.

Our Sisterhood board is so happy with the level of participation this year. Keep coming and letting us know what you like to do.

Shalom, Sue



**CBI Gift Shop
now open for**



Hanukkah 5772 (Dec. 20-28)

Shop for Hanukkah gifts on these days:

**Tuesday, December 6, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
(during Shul School)**

**Saturday, December 10, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
(CBI Silent Auction)**

**Tuesday, December 13, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
(during Shul School)**



Thursday, December 22, 6 p.m.

Hanukkah Party at ARC

Recipes from the Sisterhood – Cookbook Sneak Peek:

Panettone

This recipe was contributed by Bev Paull, past president of the Sisterhood, and renowned cook and hostess. She served this specialty at the 2005 Hanukkah Brunch.



**2 cups butter,
softened**

1½ cups sugar

4 eggs

1 cup whole milk

1 tablespoon vanilla

1 tablespoon brandy

**1 tablespoon amaretto, or 1 tablespoon each of rum
and anise**

1 tablespoon grated lemon peel

4 cups flour

4 teaspoons baking powder

1 teaspoon salt

1 cup raisins

½ cup chopped citron

½ cup glazed cherries

½ cup pine nuts

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease and flour a 9-inch angel food pan. Cream together butter and sugar. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add milk, vanilla, brandy, amaretto, and lemon peel. Blend well. In a separate bowl, sift together flour, baking powder, and salt. Gradually add sifted ingredients to creamed mixture. Fold in raisins, citron, cherries, and pine nuts. Blend well. Pour batter into greased pan. Bake for approximately 1 hour or until Panettone is done. Test with a clean toothpick. Makes at least 12 slices.

Note: This recipe is more cake-like than the yeast bread of the same name.



For more delicious recipes save room for this section.
בתיאבון *b'tayavon* (Bon Appetit in Hebrew)



The “Face” of the Homeless is Changing

Because of the economy, the Torres Community Shelter is seeing people who have never been homeless walk through their doors—including a growing number of families with children. The Torres Shelter does not charge for anything they provide, which includes beds, showers, toiletries, and an evening meal. The shelter’s evening meal service depends on the generosity of the Chico community, and a number of individuals and organizations have stepped up to the plate, including CBI. CBI volunteers provide an evening meal for 80-120 people on the **fourth Wednesday of every month** on a budget of \$150. Here’s how you can help:

- **Make a donation to CBI earmarked for the Torres Community Shelter** (you can send it to CBI or simply put your check in the Torres Shelter Tzedakah box in the lobby).
- **Volunteer to prepare food or to serve food** (call or email Nancy Evens: 530-343-3946 nancyjevans@gmail.com)
- **Make cookies for the evening meal** (call or email Maureen Knowlton: 530-896-0931 mknowltonjersey@gmail.com)

The shelter also has a variety of other needs ranging from toiletries to jackets. Look for the large Torres Shelter supply box on the floor of the CBI lobby each month to see a list of their most pressing needs.

Thanks to October’s volunteers: Nancy Evens, Keren Carter’s B’nai Mitzvah class, Dawn Rambach, David T. Green, and Anne Gottlieb!

Look for this article next month where we will learn about how CBI started and rekindled this important Mitzvah project!



Nancy Evens and Emma Carden make 180 chocolate chip cookies



Keren Carter prepares salad



Anne Gottlieb, Cassiday Marsters, Hallie Green, and Noah Rambach serve Torres Shelter residents



David T. Green conducts critical time check on cookies

As a sports fan and love of the game, I follow all facets of how sports, our culture, politics, economics, media, and psychology, are inter-connected.

As a professor, clinical social worker, and therapist, my major field of study and practice has been in the area of trauma: combat-related PTSD, sexual harassment, bullying, child sexual assault, abuse, neglect, and molestation.

So why was I not surprised at the alleged molestation and perjury charges brought against several “higher-ups” at one of the most prestigious college campus football programs in Division A, Penn State?

In the same breadth, why was I not surprised that the Catholic Church was discovered to be moving child predators/priests from parish to parish for over twenty years without any consequences?

And why do I know that there are most likely ten times more young boys than the 8 allegedly known to have been molested by Sandusky between 1994-2009? Because it’s been my job. And it’s still my job. And it will always be my job.

Children have been property and treated as chattel since the English Poor Laws in 1536. How wonderful that the U.S. simply adopted this mentality in 1776. No matter how many “laws” are written requiring children’s rights, our society continues to “look away” at the one area which remains a taboo subject: sex.

And when too much envy, money, and prestige have been accorded any institution or person, including the Vatican, people simply look the other way when it comes to protecting children from powerful adults.

Years ago a married woman with a seven-year-old son, whom I will call “Tyler” (to protect his confidentiality) came to see me, in a quandary. Tyler wanted to play basketball but her husband would not allow it. He came up with various reasons, e.g., too dangerous, Tyler could get hurt, Tyler’s practices could interfere with school work, etc. Tyler’s mother wanted me to see her and her husband together, to work out their differences.

Part of my private practice is to see each partner individually before doing couples work, in order to gain an understanding and appreciation of each of their childhood and family backgrounds. Tyler’s father, Marshall (again, not his true name), was somewhat reserved, but once I “worked my magic” as he said, “the sea parted.”

His tears did not stop. “It was my basketball coach, you see. And I’m not going to let that happen to MY son, ever.” As his story unfolded, I was honored to hear his narrative. When he was 11 years old, his coach molested him several times, with the threat of keeping him “on the bench” if he told anyone.

And toward the end of this session, he said to me, “Dr. Gagerman, I just wish there was a sign – a big billboard, maybe on Main St., or maybe near school, or maybe near downtown.”

“What would the billboard say, Marshall?” I asked.

“It would say: This is what sexual abuse is. And it is

wrong. And this is who you can trust to tell about it. And this is where you can go to, to find that person, to tell about it. And it’s not your fault. EVER...not your fault.”

We continued to just look at each other, with tears in both our eyes. For at least a few minutes. Then Marshall said to me, “I think I want Tyler to play ball, and now I know what I have to do.” He took a long breath and paused. “I’m going to offer to help out his coach. I’ll change my work schedule for practices, but it’s still going to be hard.”

“Tell me about more about this Marshall,” I softly said.

“Well, the games are at the high school gym – the same place I had to play...you know, that same place...not just at the gym, but you know, inside of me, it goes to that same place...those memories go right back there, as if it were yesterday.”

And it’s that same place where the abuse took place: where Jerry Sandusky, the defensive coordinator; Gary Schultz, VP for business and finance; Tim Curley, Athletic Director; and Joe Paterno, who morally knew better, all colluded together at keeping this family secret just that: in-family and in-house.

So if I had a choice on sanctions, besides what the Pennsylvania courts and Attorney General decide, I strongly urge them to abide by Marshall’s advice: put a sign up everywhere on campus, saying exactly what HE wished someone would have done to protect and help him.

But that’s why this story won’t go away, and why it will take years to adjudicate. It’s just like the cake that my sister, Marcia, and I would bake every week, as little girls growing up in Chicago. But we were too anxious to wait till the cake was done, and so we’d always eat it half-baked.

And that’s what we’ll have here—this cake will remain half-baked, even after penalties and fines will be levied against the accused. Because more victims and survivors will continue to come forward. Because more allegations will be made, possibly against more university personnel than we know of today. For years.

And this cake will remain half-baked, because there are many more Marshalls in this world who want a safer place for their sons and daughters to play—but it won’t be with the Penn State Nittany Lions. You can have your cake and eat that one, for sure.

Dr. Janice Gagerman is a Professor of Social Work at CSU, Sacramento. This is Part I of a 3 part series on the Penn State on-going investigation regarding sexual abuse. Janice writes a sports blog for Chicago Now, integrating sports, politics, culture, and psychology for Chicago Now. The Sacramento Bee has requested to publish an edited version of Part II of this series. Her blog can be found at www.chicagonow.com/south-side-sports-chick/.

Janice and husband David Frankel and sons, Rafael and Ari Frankel, have been CBI members since 1977.



Janice R. Gagerman, Ph.D., LCSW, BCD
A.K.A. South Side Sports Chick

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
27 Rosh Hodesh Kislev	28	29 3:30 p.m. Shul School 6:30 p.m. Mah Jongg	30 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	1 6:30 p.m. Exploring Judaism	2 4:25 p.m. Candle lighting 5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat 6 p.m. Mishpachah Service	3 Parashat Vayetzei 9 a.m. Adult Study 10 a.m. Torah Service
4	5	6 3:30 p.m. Shul School 6:30 p.m. Mah Jongg	7 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class	8 6:30 p.m. Exploring Judaism	9 4:25 p.m. Candle lighting 7:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat with Shabbat Scholar Jed Wyrick	10 Parashat Vayishlach 9 a.m. Adult Study 10 a.m. Torah Service 6 p.m. Silent Auction
11	12	13 3:30 p.m. Shul School Special Event 6:30 p.m. Mah Jong	14 7:15 p.m. Board Meeting	15 6:30 p.m. Exploring Judaism	16 4:26 p.m. Candle lighting 7:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat	17 Parashat Vayeshev 10:30 a.m. Tai Chi Chih and Torah
18 10:30 a.m. Menchkins Play Group	19	20 Chanukah: 1 Candle 6:30 p.m. Mah Jong	21 Chanukah: 2 Candles 11 a.m. Brunch Bunch Meet us for brunch at Nash's on the Esplanade	22 Chanukah: 3 Candles 6 p.m. Hanukkah Party at ARC No Class– Winter Break	23 Chanukah: 4 Candles 4:29 p.m. Candle lighting No Service	24 Chanukah: 5 Candles Parashat Miketz 10 a.m. Torah Service
25 Chanukah: 6 Candles	26 Chanukah: 7 Candles Rosh Hodesh Tevet	27 Chanukah: 8 Candles Rosh Hodesh Tevet 6:30 p.m. Mah Jong	28	29	30 4:33 p.m. Candle lighting No Service	31 Parashat Vayigash No Service

Shabbat & Holiday Services for December

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.

Friday, December 2 Light Candles at 4:25 p.m.	5:30 p.m. 6 p.m.	Tot Shabbat Shabbat Dinner catered by Rawbar followed by a family-friendly service for all ages.
Saturday, December 3	9 a.m. 10 a.m.	Adult Study Class Torah Service Parashat Vayetze Blessing for Loretta Steinke as she begins Chaplaincy training. Kiddush provided by the Mitchells in honor of Bonnie's birthday and in honor of Loretta Steinke's studies.
Friday, December 9 Light Candles at 4:25 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat Shabbat Scholar Jed Wyrick speaks Oneg is provided by the Sisterhood
Saturday, December 10	9 a.m. 10 a.m.	Adult Study Class (last class for 2011) Torah Service Parashat Vayishlach Haftarah chanted by Keren Carter Kiddush TBA
Friday, December 16 Light Candles at 4:26 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	Rabbi Danan will share some "Hanukkah Stories and Teachings for Grown-Ups" (and kids too, if they come), to get in the holiday mood. Oneg is provided by Naiman Family in celebration of Isabella's birthday.
Saturday, December 17	10:30 a.m. (note time change)	Alternative Shabbat Experience: "Tai Chi Chih and Torah" with Carol Wong & Rabbi Danan. Wear comfortable clothing & shoes, and bring a brunch type dish to share for a POTLUCK Kiddush.
Tuesday, December 20		First Light of Hanukkah (at home)
Thursday, December 22	6 p.m.	Hanukkah Party at the ARC
Friday, December 23 Light Candles at 4:29 p.m.	NO Service	NO Service
Saturday, December 24	10 a.m.	Torah Service Parashat Miketz Kiddush provided by the Danans in honor of newlyweds Shira Danan & Adam Schwartz.
Friday, December 30	NO Service	NO Service
Saturday, December 31	NO Service	NO Class or Service

Thanks to the Passovoyes, Robin Black, the Sisterhood, the Shermans, the Abrams, the Ginsberg-Saberskys and Loretta Steinke (for hosting a potluck Shabbat at her home) for providing an Oneg or Kiddush in the month of November.

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.

Help Promote Middle East Peace

Bringing peace to the Middle East is a complicated issue. Just getting Israel and the Palestinians to agree to peace negotiations has been a daunting task. Yet, there are simple, concrete, and effective ways to foster peaceful relations among Israel and its neighbors. I am honored this year to be working with an organization called Mifalot. They are doing wonderful work in the area of coexistence programs, as well as other programs that reach various disadvantaged populations. My one and only message for this month's newsletter is to encourage you to support Mifalot's work. Many of our prayers during services focus on peace for Israel. Supporting Mifalot is a concrete way to help promote peace and help Israel.

Mifalot is the largest and most diverse sport for development and peace organization in the Middle East. Its main purpose is to address the educational and social needs of children and youth living in at-risk, isolated, or disadvantaged environments. They operate over 300 programs that provide 20,000 children and youth a year with opportunities to learn, grow, and play active roles in their community and their world. Mifalot also educates and advocates for a culture of peace, coexistence, and tolerance. Mifalot's vision is to fully utilize the potential and power of sport to build more active, compassionate, and cohesive communities and support the sustainable development of a more open, just, and engaged society.

The different programs of Mifalot to which people can choose to contribute to are:

- Jews and Arabs in coexistence programs, Cross-border activities for Israeli, Palestinian, and Jordanians (this is the program with which I am working this year);
- youth at risk



- children with special needs
- empowerment of girls
- refugees from Darfur and Eritrea,
- environmental programs via soccer
- civil service promotion
- values and norms via the field
- Rehabilitation inside a youth prison

This is the link for making donations to Mifalot:
<https://www.israelgives.org/custom/mifalot/cart/>
It enables tax deductibility inside the U.S. with 501 c 3.

Helping Mifalot would make an excellent Bar/Bat mitzvah project for a child and/or would be a great way to honor a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Please mention the name of the Bar/Bat mitzvah project child when making a donation.

I am seeing firsthand the positive impacts of Mifalot programs. I expect that by the end of the year, I will have research results that quantify the positive effects of their programs. I thank you all for supporting Mifalot's work and helping it to continue and hopefully expand.

Jewish Teens of Chico






In October JTC met at the Steindorf's for an afternoon of brainstorming, planning and lots of laughing. The group has set its sites on its first Mitzvah Project. They will be working with the Torres Project to host the dinner in February. The group discussed many ideas for fund raising to support a full meal for their night at the Torres Shelter. Look for them and their desserts at the Hanukkah Party December 22nd! Also keep your eyes peeled for a donation list on the bulletin board at CBI. Some other events the group are looking into are Israeli pen pals, a Lassen Trail pick-up, Save the Orangutan Project, Ski trip to Tahoe and much, much more! The next order of business was to encourage more Jewish teens and tweens between 6th and 12 grades to become active in the group.

The November meeting at the Ziechicks was immediately followed by GAME NIGHT. Everyone brought their favorite board game and, after all of the business was settled a GREAT time was had by all! News to follow next month!



Menchkins Hanukkah Playgroup

Sunday, December 18th, 10:30-12:30
Bring your tots to a fun filled morning full of holiday activities!

-  **Make your own menorah**
-  **Play dreidel**
-  **Sing Hanukkah songs**
-  **Hear Hanukkah stories**
-  **Eat at the "latke" bar**

Our play time will conclude with a meatless potluck lunch.
Please rsvp to Lisa at lisarappaport4@yahoo.com



The high holidays are completed and our students have settled into a more calm and predictable pace of learning. However, Hanukkah is around the corner and they will be gearing up for the fun and excitement of the holiday. Each class will be having their own class parties and celebrations and the Alef class will be preparing latkes for the whole school. Yum! Thank you to our youngest students for performing this wonderful mitzvah!

As we head toward some of the coldest, shortest and darkest days of the year, let's hear what our students have to say about the Jewish festival of lights!

Classroom News

Alef Class Reflections...

When you hear the word Hanukkah, what do you think of?

Callie Marsters (top right): The game dreidel, Rice Krispy treats in the shape of Stars of David and seeing family.

Celeste Shapiro (center): Presents and prayers.

Lucas Zukrow (bottom right): The candles.



Gimel Class Reflections...

Describe your perfect latke!



Cai Jackson (top left): Medium sized, lightly salted with ketchup on the side.

Mia Rappaport (center): It's as big as a hamburger bun, has apple sauce and sour cream, and it is crunchy on the outside and soft on the inside.

Dylan Carden (bottom left): Big, crunchy, and covered with apple sauce and sour cream.

B'nai Mitzvah Class Reflections...

What is the spiritual meaning of Hanukkah?

Ella Shapiro (top right): We should remember miracles even if they are from thousands of years ago.

Lilia Diaz (center): To remember to have hope during the darkest times.

Cassiday Marsters (bottom right): It is important to fight for what is right, just like the Macabees fought for their religion and what they thought was truly right.

Stay tuned for more Shul School



reflections in next month's newsletter. Since space is limited, we were not able to publish every student's response to our questions. Next month we will feature different students.

T-Shirts Show Shul School Ruach!

Several weeks ago, on the first day of school, each student drew a Jewish symbol onto a letter sized piece of paper. The younger students drew simpler images (Star of David, bagel) while the middle aged students drew more complex images (havdallah candle, lulav and etrog) and our oldest students drew impressive biblical scenes and symbols (parting of the



Lisa Rappaport Shul School Director

Red Sea, Noah's ark). Each image was scanned, shrunk, and arranged into a chai symbol, depicting that our Shul School is where Judaism comes to life!! The students knew their drawings would become part of a T-shirt, but most likely forgot all about them. That was back in August after all.



During the Simchat Torah service in October, the Shul School students received the fruits of their collective labors: custom, student designed T-shirts for

our school! Just as we redressed the Torahs out of white and into their regular garments, our students received their T-shirts and pulled them on. It was a gorgeous blue sea of school ruach (spirit).

For me, what is most beautiful about these shirts is that each child is represented through their pictures, symbolizing that we are a community of learners. If you happen to see one of our students wearing their shirt, ask them which symbol they drew. You will see how proud they are of their work. You will see Judaism coming to life!

We have a few shirts left for sale. If you would like to purchase one, let me know. Shirt price is \$12 and supports our school.

Don't Cook Tonight Fundraisers Continue!

Join the Shul School families for more delicious, healthy, home cooked meals
New dates! Mark your calendars now for our upcoming dinners:

Tuesday, January 17 🕍 **Tuesday, February 21** 🕍 **Tuesday, April 24**
 Dinner starts when Shul School ends at 5:30 p.m.

Each night will bring a new and exciting menu! You deserve to take the night off from cooking and clean-up and enjoy a home cooked meal at an affordable price! Please rsvp to Lisa at lisarappaport4@yahoo.com

Nourish your family • Nourish your community • Nourish your soul

This dinner series is made possible in part through a grant for the "Nourishing Jewish Life Program." All proceeds go directly to CBI Shul School!

This is a follow-up story about my cousin Sidney Shlomkowitz. I have written previously in the CBI Newsletter about Sidney, titled Zysman, A Sweet Man. Our congregation includes prayers for his health in our weekly services, and he is my anchor in my Jewish faith and family. Born Zysman Szlamkowitz in Czestochowa, Poland in 1921, Sydney is a Holocaust survivor and the last of my Grandmother Esther's family. My grandparents got out of Poland in 1920, but left my grandmother's three brothers and two sisters and their families behind. "Aunt Esther" was well remembered and helped her family until 1939. After the War she found four survivors: a niece and three nephews. In 1949 three, Abram, Esther, and Moshe, went from DP camps in Europe to Israel, where they married and raised "Sabra" families. They have now passed away, but their families thrive. In 1950 Sidney came to the United States and New York City, and to his amazement, still lives there today.

I first met Sidney and his wife Sally, a Lodz Ghetto survivor, in 1968, when I went to college in Montclair, NJ. I spent weekends with them in the very same apartment in which he lived until recently in Far Rockaway, at the end of the "A" Train subway line on Mott Avenue. Nelda and I have visited Sidney whenever we could over 40 years and talk regularly on the phone. He has always been very special to me, and his story of survival in the ghetto of Czestochowa as a Jewish Partisan, then as slave labor at Buchenwald and Dora, and then liberated from Bergen-Belsen, has endeared him to my family.

Sadly, my own children and sister Julie, and my first cousins, who are my mother's brother's (also named Sidney) children, Jeff and Lisa Brownfield, had never met him, but knew his story. Sidney is now 90 years old, and his health and faculties are failing. I let my cousins and children know this and all agreed they wanted to meet him. Nelda and I arranged



Jim and Nelda Jesse and family with Cousin Sidney Shlomkowitz (bottom center) in Far Rockaway, NY this fall.

for an ingathering of nine of us, nearly all of Sidney's relatives in America, at his home, the Long Island Living Center, in Far Rockaway, NY, during the week before the High Holidays.

We all flew in from California and found our way to the Five Towns Hotel in Lawrence, NY. We spent parts of three days with Sidney and getting to know each other, in Lawrence, Far Rockaway, and Cedarhurst, NY. Sidney proudly hosted all of us and his social worker, Julie Fleischman, for lunch at his Assisted Living Facility on Friday. We took Sidney to a Kosher Pizza Place for lunch on Sunday in Cedarhurst, and he loved it. We cousins also did sightseeing together in NYC where we had the good fortune to visit the World Trade Center Memorial, and discover all manner of Jewish food and thrift stores.

We wish to share this story of what was a very happy occasion for all of us.

Jim and Nelda Jessee

Camp Tawonga

Camp Tawonga's 2012 program dates are available online now and registration begins in December! Camp Tawonga is a Jewish, residential summer camp that is American Camp Association accredited, and has a staff/camper ratio of 1:1.5. Tawonga is located outside Yosemite National Park on 160 acres in the Stanislaus National Forest and offers 2nd through 12th graders camp sessions, teen leadership, service learning, and adventure travel programs. Tawonga also offers Weekend Programs for individuals, couples and families.

Join us for Camp Tawonga Day at a Bay Area JCC on Sunday, December 4th at 1:30 p.m. Meet Camp Tawonga staff at Bay Area JCCs (San Francisco, East Bay, Foster City,



and Marin) to learn about our great programs, get your questions answered, and hear about the special JCC member discounts. Snacks and kid activities provided! Tell a friend! Bring a friend!

More info: 415.543.2267, www.tawonga.org, or info@tawonga.org

Mazal Tov!

◆ To George and Leanna Rawley on the birth of their granddaughters this year, Brighton West King born on January 24th and Giana Rawley Bacigalupi born October 24th.



◆ To Eddie and Crissy Sherman on their recent marriage. Rabbi Danan conducted their November 13 at TJ Farms Estates in Chico, with cantorial participation by Avraham Danan.

Donations

We would like to thank the following CBI members and friends:

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Al & Sandy Abrams
Morlene Cohn & Richard Feierstein

Rabbi's Health Insurance

Al & Sandy Abrams

Tikkun Olam Income

Tim & Keren Carter: Torres Shelter Dinner

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



Yahrzeits in December

Isidore Altman – Dec. 4

Remembered by Michael & Wendy Diamond Mulcahy

Nathan Appel – Dec. 4

Remembered by Mendel & Nadine Tochterman

Michael Avery – Dec. 6

Remembered by Loretta Steinke

Betty Hilton – Dec. 6

Remembered by Avraham Danan & Julie Hilton Danan

Aaron Passovoy – Dec. 6

Remembered by Michael & Carol Passovoy

Leatrice Joy Fine – Dec. 8

Remembered by Matthew N. & Isabel L. Fine

Bill Solomon – Dec. 10

Remembered by Joel & Susan Mintzes

Renate Muehlmann Dec. 13

Remembered by Ingeborg Johannsen

Earl Wilson Jessee – Dec. 16

Remembered by James W. & Nelda Jessee

Jacob Shapiro – Dec. 17

Remembered by Deborah Shapiro

Birthdays in December

Andrea Lerner.....	December 1
Grayson Bess.....	December 2
Clara Shapiro.....	December 3
Karen Stillman.....	December 3
Dennis Deromedi.....	December 6
Sharonne Edelman.....	December 6
Jeremy Miller.....	December 7
Shai Mich.....	December 9
David Zeichick.....	December 9
Robert Greenberg.....	December 10
Mia Rappaport.....	December 12
Joel Mintzes.....	December 13
Isabella Naiman.....	December 16
Morlene Cohn.....	December 19
Zia Danielle Miller.....	December 20
Ari Edelman.....	December 22
Nelda Jessee.....	December 22
Peter Straus.....	December 22
Shaelyn Howard.....	December 24
Monica Zukrow.....	December 24

We will list CBI members and their children up to age 21.

Remembering CBI Through Planned Giving

Do you want to create a lasting legacy for our Jewish community? As the 2011 calendar year comes to a close please consider CBI. To create a legacy we must think not only of our own immediate needs, but of families who will come after us. It is up to us to decide if we want to work toward having Jews in Chico for generations to come. Planned Giving enables you to support Congregation Beth Israel in the long term through bequests (remembering CBI in your will) or through the establishment of an endowment, charitable trust and or other vehicles. Planned gifts can be established with cash, securities, life insurance, IRA's, and under certain circumstances, with real estate. Please contact Stan Gottlieb, 530-343-1257, if you would like to discuss these opportunities and to get connected with someone who could help you plan a gift that benefits you and your estate, while helping our congregation flourish for generations to come.

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

CBI Community Contacts

To contact Rabbi Danan or make an appointment with her call 530-342-6146, or email rabbi@cbichico.org

To reach the President:

David Zeichick, 530-592-6001, david@zeichick.com

To reach the CBI Capital Campaign Committee Chair:

David Halimi, 530-521-6300, david@halimi.com

To make a donation:

Stan Gottlieb, 530-343-1257, sgottlieb2005@yahoo.com

To become a member:

Kristy Bergson, 530-228-5481, kb.lu@yahoo.com

To register for Shul School:

Lisa Rappaport, 530-345-9362, lisarappaport4@yahoo.com

To purchase a CBI B'nai Mitzvah Plaque:

Steve Naiman, 530-899-9225, naimansteve@yahoo.com

To sponsor an Oneg or Kiddush:

Betty Senseman 530-345-7727

To join the Sisterhood:

Sue Mintzes, 530-636-4244, sue_mintzes@hotmail.com

To join the Brotherhood:

Richard Gitelson, 530-809-0185, rgitelson@csuchico.edu

To join the CBI Book Group:

Harriet Spiegel at hspiegel@csuchico.edu

To submit a Mazal Tov announcement:

Liz Bohn, 530-342-6146, admin@cbichico.org

For Menchkins and early childhood education programs:

Lisa Rappaport, 530-345-9362, lisarappaport4@yahoo.com

To join the Jewish Teens & Tweens of Chico (JTC):

Vicki Steindorf, 530-343-1774, victoriasteindorf@yahoo.com

To support the Torres Shelter Mitzvah Project:

Maureen Knowlton, 530-896-0931, mknowlton@csuchico.edu or

Nancy Evens, 530-343-3946, nancyjevans@gmail.com

To learn more about the Motzi Mitzvah Project:

Harvey Rappaport, 530-345-9362, harveyrappaport@yahoo.com

To R.S.V.P. for the Don't Cook Tonight Series:

Lisa Rappaport, 530-345-9362, lisarappaport4@yahoo.com

To learn more about the Gert Lerner Car Wash Fundraiser:

Steve Naiman, 530-899-9225, naimansteve@yahoo.com

To help set-up and take-down tables and chairs at CBI:

David Zeichick, 530-592-6001, david@zeichick.com

To subscribe to or send a gift subscription of this newsletter:

Liz Bohn, 530-342-6146, admin@cbichico.org

To advertise in this newsletter:

Gabrielle Green, 530-514-7311, ggmedia@gmail.com

To suggest an over-looked item for this list:

Gabrielle Green, 530-514-7311, ggmedia@gmail.com

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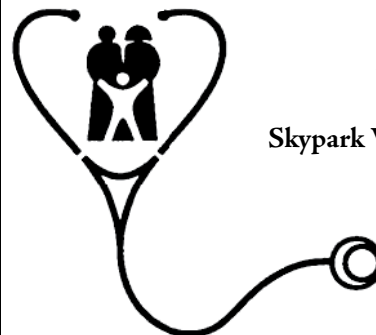
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Deadline for submissions is the 10th of the month prior.
Layout design by Carla Resnick



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Mark your calendar

Dec. 2. Raw Bar Catered Mishpachah Shabbat	
Dec. 9	Shabbat Scholar Jed Wyrick
Dec. 10	Silent Auction
Dec. 17	Tai Chi Chih
Dec. 18	Menckins Playgroup
Dec. 22	Hanukkah Party

CBI Annual Silent Auction Saturday, December 10, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**Please join us for wine, cheese, appetizers,
soups, desserts and hot apple cider.**

Come schmooze and bid on fabulous items!
Bring friends and neighbors!
You may drop off donations at the Schiffman's home Sunday,
December 4th after 1 p.m. or Noon to 4 p.m. Friday, December
9th at CBI. This is an adult event benefitting our Religious
School. Call Karen Rogers at 321-2227 for questions or to make
donations.

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 Shul School is very strong, and our Sisterhood is very active. Services are generally held Friday nights at 7:30 p.m. 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*.



Garrett and Chaim, Potato Latke Chefs Extraordinaire