



Congregation Beth Israel NEWSletter

June/July 2013
Sivan-Tammuz-Av 5773

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From the Rabbi

By Rabbi Rachel Barenblat

Holy friends,
At long last, summer is on its way to the Berkshires!

Summer means long days, evening light, glorious sunshine. Perhaps for you it means cultivating vegetables in your garden, or waving to friends in the fields at Caretaker Farm. Perhaps it means going to the Williamstown Theatre Festival or to Tanglewood, savoring some of the artistic beauty which makes the Berkshires "America's Premier Cultural Resort." (At least, that's what it says on the signs.) Perhaps it means regular trips to playgrounds and to swimming holes, Steeplecats games, afternoons at North Adams' Fish Pond or Williamstown's Margaret Lindley Pond.

Summer suggests sunlight, backyard barbecues, and relaxation -- but it can also be a time for introspection and for spiritual work. On June 25 we'll reach the 17th of Tamuz, which kicks off the period called *Bein Ha-Meitzarim*, "In the Narrows." It's also called the Three Weeks, and it will culminate with Tisha b'Av on July 15. During the Three Weeks, it's traditional to remember and mourn the long-ago siege of the city of Jerusalem which culminated in the sacking of the Temple.

There's a famous text from Talmud which says that the second Temple was destroyed because of *sinat chinam*, baseless hatred between and among the Jewish people. The longer I sit with that teaching, the more meaning I find in it. The Temple -- that quintessential sign of connection with God, the place where once upon a time we communicated with God through sacrifice -- fell when our community was broken and divided, when people's anger with and hatred for one another trumped their sense of communal cohesion and love.

But in the ashes of that communal destruction, the seeds of something remarkable and new began to sprout. Rabbinic Judaism as we know it today -- the rich and fertile forest of teachings, texts, and practices which have shaped Jewish life for almost two millennia -- arose after the disaster we remember on Tisha b'Av. Maybe it could only have arisen after that disaster.

I don't think we're immune to having occasional negative feelings toward one another: across religious lines, political lines, lines of practice and custom,

Please see *From the Rabbi* on page 2



*"This year we'll observe
Tisha b'Av both with a
service on the night of
July 14...and a study
session in the afternoon
on July 15."*

Service times

Friday meditation minyans
at 8:15 a.m. (with Reb
Rachel)

Every Saturday
9:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
11:00 a.m. Kiddush &
Torah Study

(First Friday Shabbat
services and pot-luck
dinners will likely resume
after the High Holidays)

CBI's meditation minyan
meets almost every Friday
morning at 8:15 a.m.
There will be no
meditation on June 7, July
5 and August 16.

From the Rabbi

lines of opinion about the issues where we're passionate. But if we recommit ourselves to practicing compassion in all of these arenas, then we can turn those tensions into the fertile ground where new understandings and new ideas can grow. The Three Weeks, and Tisha b'Av, offer us an opportunity each year to recommit ourselves to seeing the best in people.

If you have never fasted on Tisha b'Av, I encourage you to try it -- not only because there is meaning in participating in an observance which is practiced across the Jewish world, but because it may bring greater meaning to something which most of us do observe: the fast of Yom Kippur. The two fasts are sixty days apart, and being conscious of the first one can change our experience of the second one.

First comes Tisha b'Av, when we fast in mourning for the fallen temples. Then we count 49 days, a kind of parallel to the Counting of the Omer, during which we can focus on the internal spiritual work of taking an accounting of who we are and who we want to become. The 50th day after Tisha b'Av is Rosh Hashanah, the new year. Ten days after that comes Yom Kippur, the fast at the far end of the journey.

On Tisha b'Av, we focus on communal *teshuvah*: where have we gone wrong, as a community, in our love for each other and our connections with each other? Are we guilty of *sinat chinam*, and how can we atone for that misdeed and try to do better? Do we relate to each other as a community, or simply as a scattering of individuals loosely connected by a staple-bound directory?

This year we'll observe Tisha b'Av both with a service on the night of July 14 (featuring Lamentations, poetry, and a guided meditation) and a study session in the afternoon on July 15 (featuring texts relating to Tisha b'Av, to communal cohesion, and to the spiritual impact of fasting). How different might that Yom Kippur fast feel if we entered into it having willingly and consciously undertaken this sixty-day journey of transformation, bookended by a fast at either end?

And we can also spend our summer in the usual ways: swimming, sunbathing, going to the theatre or to listen to live music under the stars. Taking our spiritual lives seriously doesn't mean that we have to be serious all the time or that we ought to eschew the pleasures of the life we've been given. (God forbid.) But maybe those pleasures will be sweeter if we experience them alongside this annual journey of remembrance and personal rededication. And maybe our process of *teshuvah*, repentance or returning-to-God, will be deeper if we experience it interwoven with the many joys of the summer season.

May your summer be both meaningful and sweet.

Blessings,

Reb Rachel



Thank You

The rabbi, Board of Directors, and community of CBI thank Heather Levy for her tireless service editing and publishing our newsletter over the last few years. The newsletter under Heather's stewardship was always fun, informative, and beautiful. Thanks for your hard work, Heather, and enjoy a well-deserved newsletter retirement!

Cemetery Committee Update

By Jane S. Miller, Chairperson

I would like this opportunity as chairperson of the Cemetery Committee to thank all those involved in the compilation of the guide to Jewish death and mourning customs titled Everlasting Life. This book has been mailed to all members of Congregation Beth Israel.

Thank you to Paulette Wein, Susan Hogan, Robert Miller, Robert Greenberg, Rabbi Pam Wax, David Towler and Rabbi Rachel Barenblat. Thank you to David Lane for his cover design. Thank you also to Jack Hockridge for his administrative help on this project.

Please note that this booklet will be available on the CBI website as a downloadable .pdf file.



Volunteer Opportunity

**Looking to get involved?
Enthusiastic, warm, and welcoming?
*Join the membership committee.***

We are looking for warm, welcoming, energetic individuals to get involved and get connected. Membership Committee members work to retain current members and attract new members. Activities include welcoming visitors and new members, helping acquaint new members with the synagogue, managing membership materials (applications and membership packets), looking for ways to increase membership, working to retain current members, and assisting with membership events.

For more information, contact the synagogue at (413) 663-5830 or Pattie Lipman at plipman@fairpoint.net.

Chesed Committee Update

The Chesed Committee assists CBI members in times of joy, sorrow and need, coordinating volunteers to help with meals, rides, errands, visits, shiva minyans, and other needs. We also welcome new members and babies! Please contact us if you would like to join the committee or be added to our list of volunteers.

Also, if you, someone in your family, or someone in the community is ill, hospitalized, or in need of assistance, please contact us right away. Even if visits or phone calls are not desired, it is important to us as a community to be aware of the health and well-being of our members and their families.

For more information, to join the committee, or to volunteer, contact Bill Levy (wklheart@gmail.com) or David Ranzer (hubie316@gmail.com).

CBI Lunch Bunch

Thursday, June 20
Thursday, July 25
Thursday, August 22
September: TO BE ANNOUNCED
Thursday, October 17
Thursday, November 14
Thursday, December 12

All meals begin at noon at CBI in the Rudnick Family Social Hall. Please contact the CBI office to make reservations by Monday of the week of the luncheon. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Miller or Barbara Kaplan.



~~~~~ Condolences

The CBI community extends condolences to:

Stephen Prenner on the death of his wife, Joyce Prenner

Joseph and Anne Apkin on the death of Joe's father, Phil Apkin

Susan and Charles Welsch on the death of their son, Richard

Michael Kaplan on the death of his mother, Rose Kaplan

Chris Kelly-Whitney on the death of her mother, Barbara Kelly

May their memories be a blessing, and may all who mourn be comforted.

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About *Waiting to Unfold*, poet Naomi Nye writes, "These rich poems will carry you into the great timeless miracle and mystery of unfolding littleness, nonstop maternal alertness, beauty and exhaustion and amazing, exquisite tenderness, oh yes."

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## Bagels, Coffee, & Films at CBI

Join us for **Bagels, Coffee, & Films at CBI**. This year member Chaim Bronstein has organized a film series featuring Mexican Jewish movies. Join us for bagels, coffee, and movies projected on a big screen (a really big one – a whole wall in our darkened, comfortable classroom) and then conversation! Each film will begin at 11:11 on a Sunday morning, giving you time to show up, get your coffee and bagel, and schmooze a little before the movie begins.

- ***Nora's Will***

**Sunday, June 2, 11:11 a.m.**

*Nora's Will* is a tale of lost faith and eternal love from one of Mexico's most talented filmmakers. When his ex-wife, Nora, dies right before Passover, José (Fernando Luján) is forced to stay with her body until she can be properly put to rest. He soon realizes he is part of Nora's plan to bring her family back together for one last Passover feast, leading José to reexamine their relationship and rediscover their undying love for each other.

- ***Like A Bride / Novia Que Te Vea***

**Sunday, July 7, 11:11 a.m.**

In CBI's continuing summer festival of Jewish-Mexican movies, we're showing this story set in the 1960s in Mexico City, where the daughter of Ladino-speaking Turkish immigrants wants to be an artist, not a bride. Meanwhile, her friend (of Ashkenazic descent) shocks her parents by dating a Gentile boy who is active in liberal political circles!

- ***My Mexican Shiva***

**Sunday, August 4, 11:11 a.m.**

The third and final film in CBI's continuing summer festival of Jewish-Mexican movies, *My Mexican Shiva* tells the story of a man named Moishe who commits suicide. After Moishe's death, family and friends sit Shiva in Mexico City. During seven days, secrets will be disclosed.

## A Poetry Reading by Rabbi Rachel Barenblat

**Sunday, June 9, 4:00 p.m.**

Reb Rachel will read from *Waiting to Unfold* (Phoenicia, 2013), her new collection of poems arising out of the first year of new parenthood. Co-sponsored by MotherWoman and the Berkshire County Perinatal Support Coalition.

Book-signing and refreshments to follow.

Learn more at

<http://www.phoeniciapublishing.com/waiting-to-unfold.html>

## Serving with Joy:

### עבודת בשמחה - Avodat b'Simchah

As we previously announced, we will be publishing periodically in this newsletter the names of people whose volunteer work has contributed in many vital ways to the day-to-day operation of this congregation.

This issue's thank-you list focuses on those of our members who contribute their time and efforts as Shamashim - those who act as greeters and hosts for our religious services. As initially set out by Shamashim founder Elma Sanders in December 2007, the role of the Shamashim is summarized by the motto **GWAF: Greet - Welcome - Assist - Feed:**

**"Greet** each person as they arrive. **Make** each person feel **Welcome**, before, during, and after the service. **Assist** in any needs of the worshippers or the Rabbi. **Feed** them Kiddush-plus. **ENJOY!"**

Using the successful structure that Elma created and that is still used to this day, the Shamashim fellowship of chosen CBI members carries the honor and responsibility of helping to assure that all who attend services feel welcomed and at ease, and that services run smoothly. With a service host giving attention to a few very important details, the experience of coming to the synagogue and participating in the service is made more pleasant and meaningful for all. Hosts strive to see that each person goes away having experienced the CBI family as a warm and welcoming group. You will recognize them by what they do, and also by the distinctive Shamashim badge -- the little gold pin of a figure holding up a star.

The basic responsibilities of the host are: arrive early to greet all guests as they arrive, and provide each of them with a *siddur* (prayer book) and any special inserts; take steps to help assure the presence of a minyan; on Shabbat morning, hand out the Torah Service Honors and see that everyone has a copy of the *Humash* (Torah book); set out and serve the *Kiddush*, including wine, challah and simple refreshments; at the end of the service, read the Announcements and introduce newcomers and guests; and, after the *Kiddush*, assure proper clean up (other congregants usually pitch in to help).

When there is a guest service leader, the Shamashim open the building for services, and secure and close it afterwards. On First Friday evenings, duties include facilitating the potluck meal. Most importantly, the vital focus of the Shamashim is to help all to feel welcome, whether members, newcomers, or guests

Please see *Serving with Joy* on page 6

## Get Well Wishes



We all would like to send our very best wishes for Refuah Shlemah to our President, Grace Bowen.

Grace, get well soon and come back as our fearless leader! We miss you!

If anyone wants to drop Grace a card, please deliver it to the office and Jack will make sure that she receives it.



## New Members

CBI welcomes the McGuire family to our community. Sarah and Morgan and their children, Sonya and Levi, reside in Williamstown.

*Serving with Joy*

Each member of the Shamashim hosts, roughly, two times a quarter. And in recent years, some members have hosted other events at various times during the year.

Sometimes a congregant who is not a member of the Shamashim will want to host, to celebrate a *simcha*; Pam and Michael Smith have done this several times to celebrate their anniversary. We encourage guest hosts who want to host celebrate a *simcha* or just to give back to the community in this way.

New members are always welcome. If anyone wants more information on hosting or on becoming a member of the Shamashim, please contact Pattie Lipman or any of the members.

**CURRENT MEMBERS:**

Bob & Barbara Bashevkin  
Grace Bowen  
Karen Kelly & Bill Levy  
Heather Levy  
Pattie Lipman, scheduler  
Wendy Penner  
Darlene Radin  
David & Joanne Ranzer  
Cheryl Sacks  
Elma Sanders, founder  
Roberta Sullivan

**FOUNDING MEMBERS ALSO INCLUDED:**

Stu and Helene Armet  
Amy Filson  
Barbara Lerner  
Len Radin  
Jane Shiyah



As Elma, the founder of Shamashim, and Pattie, the scheduler, wrote to the members last December,

“The Shamashim group at CBI is an essential part of the synagogue, and the community and leadership owe you all a debt of gratitude for your commitment and the role you play. Your hosting of services, making sure all runs smoothly and that each person there has a pleasant and rewarding experience, keeps our community strong. Thank you!

The group was named with the same name given to the Shamash candle that lights the other candles in the chanukiyah at this time of year -- the ‘helper.’ You are a light that helps other lights shine. The Jewish faith you demonstrate in your attention to the Shabbat service can help ignite the warmth of faith in your fellow congregants.”

It is impossible to overstate the essential role of our volunteers. On behalf of the members and friends of Congregation Beth Israel, the Executive Committee extends sincere thanks to all those named above, and to everyone else whose volunteer efforts help this congregation to live and thrive as a community.

And if the list above is missing any names (yours or someone else's), please let us know as soon as possible, either by email in care of the office ([office@cbiweb.org](mailto:office@cbiweb.org)) or by telephoning CBI administrator Jack Hockridge at the office (413) 663-5830. Those names will then be included in the next newsletter listing for recognition.

Please also let us know of people (including yourself) who have done other volunteer tasks, so that we can thank them/you in future issues when other categories of volunteer service will be recognized.

## Register now for the Aleph Kallah



The 2013 ALEPH Kallah - the Jewish Renewal Biennial -- will take place this year at Franklin Pierce College in Rindge, New Hampshire, from July 1-7.

A variety of week-long workshops are offered by Jewish Renewal's finest teachers (including our own Rabbi Rachel Barenblat, who is teaching a class on writing the psalms of one's heart.) Other courses range from the Jewish roots of Christianity, to Unmasking the Hidden Beauty of Talmud, to Jewish Meditation Practices for an Awakened Heart, to Living a Life of Bliss: 20 Jewish Practices Which Create Joy and many more.

There will also be yoga and meditation offerings, hikes in the woods, a bounty of kosher meals, opportunities to experience a wide variety of different prayer services, and engaging programs every evening -- plus a truly incredible Shabbat at the culmination of the week.

The Kallah is a wonderful way to get a sense for Jewish Renewal (in a more diverse way than you get from simply having a Renewal-trained rabbi), and it's always a meaningful, joyful, spiritually and intellectually enlivening experience.

Financial aid is available, and if the costs of a week-long retreat are daunting, ALEPH will work with you to find a way to make the week feasible for you. If ten people from CBI sign up, we all get a substantial discount. The ALEPH Kallah website is <https://www.aleph.org/kallah.htm>, and you can download a brochure (with course listings etc.) and register at the website.

## The CBI Library Is Open To You

Did you know that members are welcome to borrow books from the CBI library? You are!

Our books are arranged around the back of the Rudnick Family Social Hall, shelved in sections denoted by the little wooden signs made by Chaim Bronstein. On the counter, next to the Jewish Lights pamphlet display, there's a notebook where you can sign out a book. Write down the name of the book, your name, and when you're taking the book out of the library. Bring it back and sign it back in when you're done.

We have a wonderful collection of titles, and they are here for you; enjoy!

## Happy Anniversary!

|        |                                          |
|--------|------------------------------------------|
| 7-Jun  | Rabbi Rachel Barenblat & Ethan Zuckerman |
| 9-Jun  | Lori & Philip Guy                        |
| 10-Jun | Fern & Dr. Kenneth Sann                  |
| 19-Jun | Anna Jo & Richard Dubow                  |
| 21-Jun | Audrey Thier & Peter Murphy              |
| 25-Jun | Patricia & Richard Reichler              |
| 27-Jun | Robin Brickman & Jefferson Strait        |
| 27-Jun | Carol & Jerrold Jacobs                   |
| 29-Jun | Pamela & Michael Smith                   |
| 30-Jun | Maribeth & David Pomerantz               |
| 4-Jul  | Deborah & David Rothschild               |
| 5-Jul  | Cheryl Sacks & Richard Cohen             |
| 15-Jul | Roberta & Howard Saunders                |
| 18-Jul | Beverly & Robert Hertzog                 |
| 25-Jul | Amy & Adam Filson                        |

## Operation Paperback

As you may know, one of our congregants, Sue Hogan, has a son, Dan, who is serving in Afghanistan. She and her youngest son, Matthew, are participating in a project that sends books to service members and veterans.



Operation Paperback is a non-profit organization that collects gently used books nationwide and sends them to American troops overseas, as well as veterans and military families here at home. Since 1999, over 1.9 million books have been shipped to locations around the globe. Books are collected, sorted, and shipped directly to the troops by volunteers throughout the country.

Troops have requested the following genres: action, biographies and memoirs, fantasy, history, horror, mysteries, science fiction, true crime, spy novels, and murder mysteries. These are the most popular genres, however, there are many requests for business and investing books, classics, history (especially military history), and current event-oriented non-fiction.

Please drop your donated books in the boxes located in the following locations:

- CBI lobby
- Hogan's house: 45 Moorland Street, Williamstown, MA (leave in box on steps)
- Sue Hogan's Office: 1st Floor, Hopkins Hall, Williams College

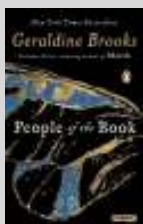
Or contact Sue and Matt at [VThogans@yahoo.com](mailto:VThogans@yahoo.com) and they pick up your books. Please feel free to pass this along to your friends.

## Jewish Book Discussion Group – Summer 2013

**Mondays at 7:00 p.m.**

### June 10 -- *Betraying Spinoza* by Rebecca Goldstein (non-fiction)

In 1656, Amsterdam's Jewish community excommunicated Baruch Spinoza, and, at the age of twenty-three, he became the most famous heretic in Judaism... In *Betraying Spinoza*, Rebecca Goldstein sets out to rediscover the flesh-and-blood man often hidden beneath the veneer of rigorous rationality, and to crack the mystery of the breach between the philosopher and his Jewish past.



### July 22 -- *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks (fiction)

Inspired by a true story...this ambitious, electrifying work traces the harrowing journey of the famed Sarajevo Haggadah, a beautifully illuminated Hebrew manuscript created in fifteenth-century Spain.

### September 16 -- *Bread Givers* by Anzia Yezierska (fiction, originally published 1925)

This masterwork of American immigrant literature is set in the 1920s on the Lower East Side of Manhattan and tells the story of Sara Smolinsky, the youngest daughter of an Orthodox rabbi, who rebels against her father's rigid conception of Jewish womanhood.



## Donations

### Cemetery Fund

In memory of Bessie & William Kronick  
*Sonya Shor*

In memory of Marilyn Saunders Klein  
*Gerald & Gertrude Silverstein*

### Take & Eat Program

*Robert & Barbara Bashevkin*

### CBI Education Fund

In memory of Chris Kelly-Whitney's mother  
*David & Joanne Ranzer*

### B'nai Tzedek - Rachel Shiyah-Satullo

*Jewish Endowment Foundation*

### Senior Lunch Program

In honor of what would be Ben Apkin's birthday  
*Anonymous*

### High Holiday Appeal (donations since Nov 1)

*Howard & Dale Levitz*

*Jewish Endowment Foundation*

*Milton and Martha Dalitsky Family Foundation*

*Kenneth & Fern Sann*

*Ronald & Melissa Sunog*

*Lawrence & Judith Weber*

*Marc & Lauren Gotlieb*

### CBI General Fund

*The Joseph and Anna Gartner Foundation*

*Yahara Katzeff*

*Kenneth & Fern Sann*

*Jacob & Dora Wineberg Fund*

In honor of Dan Hogan, son of Sue and John Hogan, for his dedicated service to our country upon his re-deployment to Afghanistan. May God keep Dan and all of our troops safe.

*The CBI Board of Directors*

In honor of Rabbi Rachel Barenblat in thanks for baby-naming

*Susan Adler*

In honor of the Hirsh family

*Michael and Carol Hirsh*

In honor of Sue Taskin's special birthday

*Florence Wineberg*

In honor of 50th Wedding Anniversary of Joyce & Steve Prenner

*Michael & Barbara Kaplan*

In honor of the birth of Sara Chelsea Geelan & Sawyer Glassman Boudin

In honor of Susan Taskin's 90th birthday

*David & Joanne Ranzer*

In honor of Rabbi Rachel Barenblat

*Lynn Barr*

In memory of Philip Apkin

*Adrienne Apkin*

*Berkshire County Arc, Inc.*

*Mark Burnett*

*John & Elaine Daniels*

*Earth Waste & Metal*

*Gajda, Arnold & McConnell*

*Myrna Katz*

*Christopher & Tina Lamarre*

*Israel & Cookie Mac*

*Karen Polishuk*

*David & Joanne Ranzer*

*Victoria Ross*

*Howard & Roberta Saunders*

*Service Aluminum Corp*

*Warner & Amely Smith*

*Steven & Kathleen Strange*

*Edith Taskin*

*Dana Trokel*

*wTe Corporation*

*Florence Wineberg*

*Howard & Deborah Wineberg*

In memory of George Apkin

In memory of Ben Apkin

*Adrienne Apkin and family*

In memory of Edith Bashevkin and Marilyn Saunders Klein

*Alan Bashevkin & Nancy Pearlman*

In memory of Hilliard Brickman

*Robin Brickman & Jefferson Strait*

In memory of Ruth Dubow

In memory of Beatrice Renfield

In memory of Saul Dubow

*Richard & Anna Jo Dubow*

In memory of Norma Freedman

*Mort Freedman*

In memory of Samuel U. Hirsh  
 In memory of Rebecca C. Hirsh  
*Michael & Carol Hirsh*  
*Jordan & Sandra Hirsh Golding*

In memory of Alexander Afrecan  
 In memory of Morris Jacobs  
 In memory of Daniel Goldman  
 In memory of Estelle Goldman  
*Jerrold & Carol Jacobs*

In memory of Marilyn Saunders Klein  
*Mark Feder*  
*Stuart Jenkins & Karen Chapman*

In memory of Graham Kushnet  
*Allen & Debbie Kushnet*

In memory of Hyman Grossman  
*Sylvia Lenhoff*

In memory of Belle & Hyman Kaplan, Ann &  
 Irving Walkin and Irving Licht  
*Frances Licht*

In memory of Ruth Shapiro and Sterling  
 Shapiro  
*Robert & Jane Miller*

In memory of Esta Feder  
 In memory of Henry Feder  
*Barbara Mindel*

In memory of Marilyn Klein  
*Faith & Larry Newmark*

In memory of Judge Benjamin Apkin  
*Gary & Phyllis Nichols*

In memory of our Dear Father and Saba  
*Gary & Phyllis Nichols*

In memory of Rose Kaplan  
*Stephen & Joyce Prenner*

In memory of Robert C. Elkins  
*David & Joanne Ranzer*

In memory of William I. Sabin  
*Charlotte Sabin*

In memory of Arthur Rosenthal  
*William & Phyllis Sands*

In memory of Rose Kaplan  
*Howard & Roberta Saunders*

In memory of Morton Schiff  
 In memory of Daniel Berley  
*Ellen Schiff*

In memory of Bessie and Willie Kronick  
*Sonnie Shor & children*

In memory of Elizabeth Carr  
 In memory of Harold Taskin  
 In memory of Nathan Carr  
*Susan Taskin*

In memory of Jacqueline Wein  
*Larry & Anne Wein*  
*Eugene Wein*  
*Paulette Wein*

In memory of Eli & Lee Shapiro, Leon & Fritz  
 Weiner  
*Richard Weiner & Mimi Shapiro Weiner*

In honor of Sue Taskin's special birthday  
 In memory of Mervin Wineberg  
*Florence Wineberg*

In memory of Ben Apkin  
 In memory of Mervin Wineberg  
*Howard & Deborah Wineberg*

In memory of Joyce Prenner:  
*Joanne & David Ranzer*  
*Roberta & Howard Saunders*

## CBI Funds

Cemetery Fund  
 Education Fund  
 Building Fund  
 Krizack Scholarship Fund  
 Frank Bequest  
 Ramah Endowment Fund  
 Torah Fund  
 Event Fund  
 Senior Lunch Fund  
 Rabbi's Discretionary Fund  
 Take & Eat Program Fund

## Happy Birthday!

|        |                   |
|--------|-------------------|
| 3-Jun  | Joseph Apkin      |
| 6-Jun  | Robert Bashevkin  |
| 9-Jun  | Anne Apkin        |
| 11-Jun | Helene Armet      |
| 12-Jun | Elizabeth Miller  |
| 16-Jun | Deborah Wineberg  |
| 17-Jun | Lewis Kronick     |
| 17-Jun | David Pomerantz   |
| 17-Jun | Kenneth Sann      |
| 25-Jun | Miriam Pomerantz  |
| 29-Jun | Robert Schwartz   |
| 30-Jun | Jared Strait      |
| 4-Jul  | Mrs. Edith Taskin |
| 5-Jul  | Fern Sann         |
| 7-Jul  | Elizabeth Cohen   |
| 9-Jul  | Robin Brickman    |
| 9-Jul  | Chaim Bronstein   |
| 9-Jul  | Cindy Polinsky    |
| 9-Jul  | Emily Sullivan    |
| 11-Jul | Dr. Len Radin     |
| 11-Jul | Theo Sandstrom    |
| 15-Jul | Beverly Hertzog   |
| 17-Jul | Roberta Saunders  |
| 21-Jul | Philip Guy        |
| 21-Jul | Sherry Wein       |
| 22-Jul | Dr. Darlene Radin |
| 24-Jul | Anna Jo Dubow     |
| 27-Jul | Ellen Bernstein   |
| 27-Jul | Maxx Sann         |
| 29-Jul | Richard Reichler  |



## Transposing Broadway

Sunday, July 7, 3:00 p.m., \$12



A Summer Celebration of Jewish Music continues with *Transposing Broadway: Jewish Influences on the Broadway Musical*. Presented by Stuart Hecht, Professor of Theatre at Boston College, where he teaches and directs, in conjunction with the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires.

Over the last hundred years, musical theatre artists - from Berlin to Rodgers and Hammerstein to Sondheim - have developed a form that corresponds directly to the Americanization of the increasingly Jewish New York audience; and that audience's aspirations and concerns have played out in the shows themselves. Musicals thus became a paradigm which instructed newcomers in how to assimilate while correspondingly envisioning the "American Dream" - America as democratic and inclusive. Broadway musicals still continue to function today as "cultural Ellis Islands" for fringe populations seeking acceptance into the nation's mainstream - including women, blacks, Latinos, and gays - all essentially modeled upon the Jewish example.

Stuart J. Hecht offers a fascinating examination of the relationship between Jews, assimilation, and the changing face of the American musical.



## Tisha b'Av Service

Monday, July 15, 8:00 p.m.

We'll enter into Tisha b'Av through the mournful sounds of Eicha (Lamentations), poems and prayers both classical and contemporary, and a guided meditation which will help us connect with the fall of the Temple and what that might mean for us as Jews in today's world.

## Study Session and Mincha

Tuesday, July 16, 3:00 p.m.

Join Reb Rachel for the study of texts relating to Tisha b'Av, from Talmud to contemporary poetry to contemporary Muslim writings about the impact of fasting on one's spiritual life. We'll close with a very short-and-sweet mincha service, 20 minutes of prayers, when the day's tide begins to turn and we move from despair into hope for redemption.



## Service Schedule

**June 1** - Reb Rachel leads Shabbat morning services

**June 8** - Rabbi Howard Cohen leads Shabbat morning services

**June 15** - Reb Rachel leads Shabbat morning services

**June 22** - Rabbi Pam Wax leads Shabbat morning services

**June 29** - Rabbi Pam Wax leads Shabbat morning services

**July 1-7:** ALEPH Kallah in Rindge, New Hampshire

**July 6** - Rabbi Howard Cohen leads Shabbat morning services

**July 13** - Reb Rachel leads Shabbat morning services

**July 15** - Erev Tisha b'Av; services at 8:00 p.m.

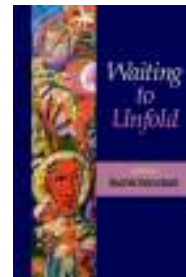
**July 16** - Tisha b'Av afternoon study session at 3:00 p.m.

**July 20** - Reb Rachel leads Shabbat morning services

**July 27** - Rabbi Howard leads Shabbat morning services

## Simchas in Our Community

We send a hearty Mazel Tov to our members:



**Rabbi Rachel Barenblat** on the publication of *Waiting to Unfold*, poems of pregnancy and the first year of new parenthood (Phoenicia Publishing, 2013.)



**Ethan Zuckerman** on the publication of *Rewire: Digital Cosmopolitans in the Age of Connection* (WW Norton, June 2013), selected as one of Foreign Policy's top 10 books to read in 2013.

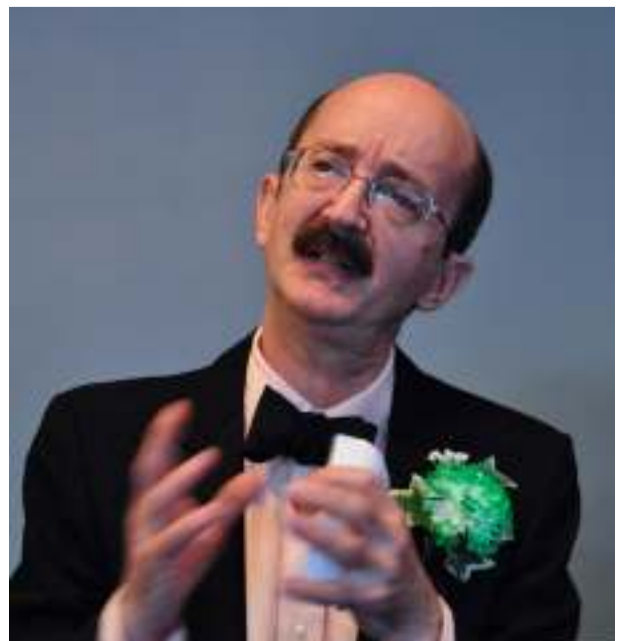


**Dorian Sanders**, son of Elma and Donald Sanders, on his graduation from Lesley College in Cambridge, MA, on May 18. As a history major, he has completed a senior paper on the architecture of Trinity Church in Boston, and he has interned at the Semitic Museum of Harvard University and the Larz Anderson Automobile Museum in Brookline.



**Len Radin** on his retirement from his twenty-five years of service as Drury High School's theater teacher, largely as a volunteer. Len said, in his letter to the Drury principal, "I want to retire from teaching while I still feel passionate about it...I want to retire even though I will greatly miss the fine young men and women who bring the Drury stage alive. I know there will be times that I will feel a yawning hole in my life, but my tuxedo is getting frayed and needs a rest."

In 1989, Len founded the Drama Team — an academic department of theater; students receive full academic credit and must audition to join the team. In 2008, Superintendent James Montepare appointed Len to a newly created position: district theater coordinator. From then on, he received "a small stipend and health insurance" for his charge in developing and heading a district-wide drama program open to all 12 grades. In his last act as a theater teacher, Len will travel to the University of Nebraska in Lincoln with the Drama Team to participate in the 2013 International Thespian Festival from June 24-29. You can read more about Len's teaching career at <http://www.iberkshires.com/story/43817/North-Adams-Drama-Teacher-Making-Final-Curtain-Call.html>



**David Kelly-Whitney**, son of Chris and Marie Kelly-Whitney, on becoming bar mitzvah on April 20th. David gave the blessings for the Torah reading for the first time on this day and proudly carried the Torah around the sanctuary.

In his d'var Torah, David eloquently shared Jewish teachings about caring for and respecting animals and explained that his bar mitzvah project was a food and toy drive to benefit the animals at the Eleanor Sinsini Animal Shelter in Pittsfield. He visited the shelter earlier this year with his aunt and realized that this very small, volunteer-run shelter had a great need for donations, so he decided to make them his project. David considers his collection a success. With his mom and brother, he delivered many bags and cans of dog and cat food, a giant box of biscuits, a bunch of pet toys and a cash donation. A shelter worker gratefully accepted all this, and when told why the donation was being made, she said, "That boy has a very kind heart."

The Kelly-Whitney's say, "Thank you to all who celebrated with us and made donations toward this worthy project."



This elderly Pug, who (with her little friend in the doghouse) is awaiting a new home, is one of the animals who will benefit from David's mitzvah.

**The deadline for the August/September newsletter is July 10.**

Submissions made by email or by email with a Word file attached to [ckellywhitney@gmail.com](mailto:ckellywhitney@gmail.com) are preferred. If you do not have access to a computer or email, please contact the editor by phone or US Postal Service.  
*Please respect the deadline!*

Thank you,  
Chris Kelly-Whitney,  
Newsletter Editor/Publisher

## Super Sunday



The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires has subsidized the Jewish education of every child in all Berkshire Jewish religious schools, including CBI, and provided summer camp scholarships to all who applied.

Super Sunday 2013 is an opportunity to keep that momentum going, a day on which the Federation invites committed members of Berkshire County's synagogues and Jewish institutions to help them kick-off this year's fund raising efforts. The Federation needs our help to make their efforts on June 2nd as successful as they must be so they can sustain their high level of service to the community in this still challenging economic environment.

The Super Sunday Phone-a-Thon on June 2 is in need of 5 or more CBI members to volunteer for the event. Super Sunday will take place at the Federation's office at 196 South Street in Pittsfield and at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire in Great Barrington. There are two morning shifts, from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (on other dates, calls will be made between 4:30 and 9:00 p.m. at Federation offices.

To sign up, you can contact the Federation directly at [JFB.Volunteer@verizon.net](mailto:JFB.Volunteer@verizon.net) or [413-442-4360 ext 14](tel:413-442-4360). Or contact the CBI office at [office@cbiweb.org](mailto:office@cbiweb.org) and we will forward your name to them.

## Wanted PR Czar

**Knowledgeable about public relations,  
journalism, and/or marketing?  
Good writer?  
Looking to help out?**

CBI is looking for individuals with ideas and energy for how to make CBI more visible in the community. For more information or to volunteer, contact the synagogue at (413) 663-5830 or Pattie Lipman at [plipman@fairpoint.net](mailto:plipman@fairpoint.net).



**Congregation Beth  
Israel is proud to be  
a member of the  
Union for Reform  
Judaism**



**SYNAGOGUE OFFICE HOURS & PHONE NUMBERS**

*Office:*

Monday - Friday  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Phone & Fax (413) 663-5830  
E-mail [office@cbiweb.org](mailto:office@cbiweb.org)

*Rabbi's Study:*

Mondays 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Fridays 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
(Meditation Minyan 8:00 a.m.)

Other times by appointment

Phone (413) 822-5267  
E-mail [rebrachel@cbiweb.org](mailto:rebrachel@cbiweb.org)

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*Rabbi:* Rachel Barenblat  
*President:* Grace Bowen  
*Co-Vice Presidents:* Pattie Lipman & Bill Levy  
*Synagogue Administrator:* Jack Hockridge  
*Newsletter Editor/Publisher:* Chris Kelly-Whitney

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