



Congregation Beth Israel  
חבורת בית ישראל

**CBI NEWSletter** May/June 2016 - Nisan/Iyyar/Sivan 5776

## From the Rabbi



Dear friends,

We've just come through the season containing the major Jewish holiday celebrated by more Jews than any other in the year. Pesach is beloved with good reason. The story of liberation at its heart continues to resound in us as the Jewish people's core narrative about who we are. And hey, who doesn't enjoy "Dayenu" and the Four Questions and matzah ball soup?

In the season covered by this newsletter we'll reach the major Jewish holiday which may be celebrated by fewer Jews than any other: Shavuot. Of the three great pilgrimage festivals our people once observed, two now have celebrations with obvious appeal. Sukkot -- you get to decorate a little harvest house and dine al fresco. Pesach -- there's the Passover seder. But the word Shavuot probably doesn't raise a ton of memories for most of you. For a long time it didn't say much to me, either.

In the ancient agricultural cycle, Pesach was time to bring the first spring grain to the Temple. Meanwhile, grain planted on the

second day of Pesach would be cultivated for 49 days and on the 50th day brought to the Temple. In the wake of the Temple's fall, the rabbinic tradition needed to find a new way to understand Shavuot. That new way came in the form of the teaching that it was on Shavuot -- the 50th day after the Exodus -- that the Jewish people received Torah at Sinai.

For years we here at CBI have celebrated Shavuot with a late-night Torah study session with the folks from Beth El in Bennington, which many of you have enjoyed. But as fun as midnight Torah learning is, it doesn't hold the same wealth of memories and associations as a night in a sukkah or a Pesach seder meal.

This year I'm inviting CBI members to make some deep Shavuot memories. Join me in a small pilgrimage of our own: to Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center (now a part of Hazon) in Falls Village, Connecticut, from June 10-13. Ours is one of several ALEPH network communities in the Northeast aiming to hold its congregational observance of Shavuot at Isabella Freedman. Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman from Rimon is bringing her membership. My friend and colleague Rabbi David Evan Markus, whom many of you know, is bringing his community from City Island. And I'm excited about bringing our community.

There's nothing like an immersive retreat experience. All of your needs are met. (And the food at Isabella Freedman is amazing, organic, and homegrown.) There will be all kinds of opportunities for spiritual practice, from a variety of late-night classes, to joyful and participatory prayer (singing and dancing beside the lake optional), to meditation and yoga, to walking on the trails around and behind Lake Miriam. There's a kids' program, so that adults can enjoy grown-up festive time while kids are learning and having fun.

Like our ancestors of old, when we come together in pilgrimage we are doubly blessed: with the experience of celebrating the festival, and with the experience of connecting with community. On a retreat gathering we can kindle new friendships and strengthen old ones. The last time I attended the Shavuot retreat at Isabella Freedman, my son was an infant and I strolled him around the back of the room in his stroller at 3am to keep him sleeping so I could hear Reb Zalman teach.

This year I'll be teaching there, along with a terrific teaching roster that includes Rabbinic Pastor Eve Ilsen, the widow of Reb Zalman of blessed memory, who has been teaching at Isabella Freedman on Shavuot for many years. I don't know whether she'll be teaching on dreams, on aging to sage-ing work, on the journey of grief or on something else entirely, but whatever she teaches will be terrific.

Because CBI is part of the ALEPH Network, we're receiving a substantial discount on the Shavuot retreat. If you enter the code VELVETEEN in your registration, you'll get \$150 taken off the costs of the retreat. There's also some congregational support available for members wishing to attend this retreat; reach out to me if that interests you, though please do so quickly.

The Kotzker rebbe taught that it's important that we say not that God gave us the Torah at Sinai, but that we began receiving it there. Because had God only given it in that moment, that would have been time-limited. God gave, and that's the end. But because what happened on that date was that God began giving Torah to us, we know that the gift continues to flow.

I hope that many of you will join me for Shavuot to experience the revelation of Torah in all four worlds of body, heart, mind, and spirit. And for all of us, whether we're on retreat or staying home, may Torah continue to flow into our lives, now and always.

Blessings to all,

Rabbi Rachel

## Don't Miss Shavuot at Isabella Freedman!



Registration is open for an extraordinary weekend of learning, song, organic feasts, dance, yoga, meditation and more at the Isabella Freedman Retreat Center in Connecticut, in partnership with ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal.

Join Rabbi Rachel and renowned Renewal spiritual leaders and their congregants from across the Northeast, including Rabbi David Evan Markus (who has visited CBI frequently) and mystic Eve Ilsen (wife of Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi z"l), whose work with dreams and the imaginal realm descends from the spiritual legacy of Colette Aboulker-Muscat. This retreat will delight and inspire.

CBI members receive an automatic \$150 discount when they register on the Hazon website using discount code VELVETEEN. Additional financial aid is available from Hazon: don't miss this precious opportunity to bask in the spiritual gifts of Jewish Renewal.

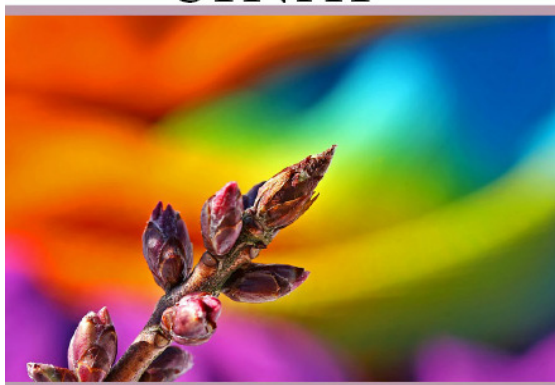
For more information, consult the registration email or the Hazon website, or email Rabbi Rachel at [rabbibarenblat@gmail.com](mailto:rabbibarenblat@gmail.com).

**CBI & Northeast Renewal Shavuot Retreat  
Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center  
Falls Village, Connecticut  
June 10-13, 2016**

Every family who came to CBI's second-night community seder (Saturday, April 23) should have received a copy of Rabbi Rachel's latest collection of poems: 49 poems intended to enrich the period of the counting of the Omer, the 49 days between Pesach and Shavuot. Did your family get theirs? Here's what others have said about her collection:

---

## TOWARD SINAI



## OMER POEMS

RACHEL  
BARENBLAT

*The Omer is the period of 49 days between Pesach (Passover) and Shavuot. Through counting the Omer, we link liberation with revelation. Once we counted the days between the Pesach barley offering and the Shavuot wheat offering at the Temple in Jerusalem. Now as we count the days we prepare an internal harvest of reflection, discernment, and readiness. Kabbalistic (mystical) and Mussar (personal refinement) traditions offer lenses through which we can examine ourselves as we prepare ourselves to receive Torah anew at Shavuot. Here are 49 poems, one for each day of the Omer, accompanied by helpful Omer-counting*

*materials. Use these poems to deepen your own practice as we move together through this seven-week corridor of holy time.*

---

### Praise for *Toward Sinai: Omer Poems*

Rachel Barenblat has gifted her readers with a set of insightful poems to accompany our journey through the wilderness during the Counting of the Omer. Deft of image and reference, engaging and provocative, meditative and surprising, this collection is like a small purse of jewels. Each sparkling gem can support and enlighten readers on their paths toward psycho-spiritual Truth.

--Rabbi Min Kantrowitz, author of [\*Counting the Omer: A Kabbalistic Meditation Guide\*](#)

Rachel Barenblat comes bearing a rich harvest. In *Toward Sinai*, her series of poems to be read daily during the counting of the Omer, a poem chronicles every step between Exodus and Sinai. The poems exist in the voices of the ancient Hebrews measuring grain each day between Passover and Shavuot, and also in a contemporary voice that explores the meaning of the Omer in our own day. Together, the poems constitute a layered journey that integrates mysticism, nature, and personal growth. As Barenblat writes: "Gratitude, quantified."

--Rabbi Jill Hammer, author of [\*The Omer Calendar of Biblical Women\*](#)

Your Torah is transcendent and hits home every time.

-- Rabbi Michael Bernstein, [\*Rabbi Without Borders Fellow\*](#)

---

## Ride Share?

Are you are in need of a ride to and from CBI to attend services or events?

Are you in need of a ride for local errands or appointments?

The CBI community can try to help. Please let Jack know what your needs are.

If you are able and willing to share rides or give rides, please send your information on your availability to Jack.



## Death, mourning, and transformation

This three-session class, taught by Rabbi Rachel, will explore Jewish ideas, teachings, and rituals around death and mourning. We'll explore texts both ancient and modern which will offer us different Jewish ideas about death and afterlife, taharah and burial, and kaddish and mourning customs. The class will meet at 10am on Sundays June 5, June 26, and July 24. Note: this is a change of dates from previous notice.

Price: \$18 for CBI members, \$36 for non-members. Register by emailing [rabbibarenblat@gmail.com](mailto:rabbibarenblat@gmail.com).

## Service times

First Fridays (check for listing).

Every Saturday

9:30 a.m. Shabbat Service

11ish a.m. Kiddush/Torah Study

Meditation minyan

Friday mornings, 9a.m.



## May/June Shabbat candle lighting and Havdalah times



*If you want to light Shabbat candles and make havdalah at the halakhically accepted times, here they are:*

May 6 7:41 lighting; May 7: 8:50 havdalah

May 13 7:48 lighting; May 14: 8:58 havdalah

May 20 7:56 lighting; May 21: 9:05 havdalah

May 27 8:02 lighting; May 28: 9:11 havdalah

Jun 3 8:08 lighting; Jun 4: 9:16 havdalah

Jun 10 8:12 lighting; Jun 11: 9:20 havdalah

Jun 17 8:15 lighting; Jun 18: 9:23 havdalah

Jun 24 8:16 lighting; Jun 25: 9:24 havdalah

If it is your practice to light candles at a different hour of the day (perhaps not quite so early as halakha indicates during the winter, and not quite so late as halakha indicates during the summer), that's also a legitimate Reform Jewish choice. What's most important is that you're finding a way to incorporate Shabbat into your life.

### From Rabbi Lori Shaller

Latitude 41.41, Longitude 70.62



I am looking forward to being back with the CBI community on Shabbat morning, **May 21**. I will once again lead a contemplative service with movement. Please bring your yoga mat if you have one, and wear clothes in which you will be comfortable to move. If it's warm enough and people agree, we will pray outdoors. What you can expect: freedom to move in any way that makes sense to you and that feels good in your body, plus some suggestions for movement; chant; a contemplative approach to the parshah; Amidah and Mourners Kaddish. I look forward to praying with you.

## Ruthie's Lunch Bunch

If you are old enough for Social Security, come share lunch, good company and conversation on:

Thursday, May 19

Thursday, June 16

Thursday, July 14

Thursday, August 18

Thursday, September 22

Please R.S.V.P. to the CBI office at 663-5830, by Monday before the luncheon date. We start promptly at noon.



Ruthie's Lunch Bunch celebrating Lillian's Birthday at Lickety Split, at MASS MoCA

### Congregation Beth Israel Volunteers Needed Sunday, May 22, 2016

Join the entire Berkshire Jewish Community as we come together to raise money for the Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign. Together, we can build, strengthen and care for our Jewish community across the Berkshires, in Israel and around the world.



#### MAKE THE CALL

Two convenient phone-a-thon locations.  
Food, fun and training provided!

##### **Jewish Federation of the Berkshires**

196 South Street, Pittsfield  
9 am-12:30 pm

##### **Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center Administrative Office**

244 Main St. Suite #3, Great Barrington, MA  
9 am- 12:30 pm

RSVP: 413-442-4360, ext 14

or online at [Jewishberkshires.org](http://Jewishberkshires.org)

#### ANSWER THE CALL

If your phone rings on Super Sunday, answer it. Your gift to the Federation's 2016 Annual Campaign -- whatever it is you can give -- will help feed the hungry, comfort the elderly and care for Jews in need here at home, in Israel and around the world. It will also help to nurture and sustain Jewish life in the Berkshires today and for future generations.

**Congregation Ahavath Sholom is a proud affiliate and beneficiary of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires**



Thank you to the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, Berkshire United Way and Cohen, Kinne, Valicenti & Cook for their support

## Tikkun Leil Shavuot at CBI



For those not attending the Isabella Freedman retreat, Shavuot still happens in North Adams! Shavuot celebrates the giving of Torah at Sinai, so join us for one or both of the following:

1. On Saturday evening, June 11, we will gather for a tikkun leil Shavuot, beginning at 8:30 PM at CBI. If you would like to teach, please contact Pam Wax at [pwax@bcn.net](mailto:pwax@bcn.net). If you plan to come (but don't want to teach), please RSVP as well, so we know how much cheesecake and other Shavuot provisions to buy! We hope to have enough study opportunities to get us through until 11 PM or midnight, so if you've ever wanted to delve into a topic of Jewish interest or want to pose a topic for conversation, join us.
2. Shavuot morning services with yizkor will take place on Sunday morning, June 12, at 10 AM. Shavuot celebrates the covenantal relationship created between God and Israel through Torah, so we will stand under the chuppah as we read the ten commandments from the Torah. If you are not attending the Shavuot retreat in CT, please join us for this special service! Please RSVP to Pam at [pwax@bcn.net](mailto:pwax@bcn.net) so we can ensure a minyan!

## Mazel Tov and Congratulations!



Robin Brickman and Jeff Strait are thrilled to announce the birth of Hazel Lillian Strait, born on April 2, 2016, to Jared Hillel Strait and Jennie Pogorzala, in Maryland. Welcome Hazel!

Congratulations to Sophie Lane, daughter of congregant David Lane and Jenn Mattern for being a presenter at the March 23 “Feminism in Art Showcase and Celebration” in North Adams. Sophie is a North Adams based singer-songwriter. She was the winner of Berkshire Idol 2013 and has been singing all over Berkshire County since. She plays ukulele and piano, performing both covers and original songs.



Mazel Tov to Dr. Caleb Strait after successfully defending his PhD thesis in Brain and Cognitive Science, at University of Rochester – Congratulations, Dr. Strait!



Jessica Strait, Caleb Strait, Robin Brickman, Jeff Strait

Congratulations to Tela Zasloff for organizing the April 6 public forum for Williamstown Planning Board candidates. In an unusually crowded field, 6 candidates are running for 2 open seats on that Board. The forum was held before a live audience; it was also televised live, and videotaped for rebroadcast, by Willinet, the local public access TV station serving the town of Williamstown.

Tela is co-founder and Editor of The Greylock Independent, a new Northern Berkshire monthly journal mailed to subscribers in a print edition, and also featuring a multimedia website at [greylockindependent.com](http://greylockindependent.com). It is published by the non-profit corporation Citizen Media, Inc. The Independent’s website, in describing the motivation for its founding, says, “We think we need to take time to dig deeper and more broadly on local issues and trends, and hope to encourage our readers to share in this kind of slower reflection, in a public forum.”



## Condolences



Helen Aitken

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Helen Aitken. Helen (Cohen) Aitken of Boca Raton, Florida, formerly of Williamstown, Massachusetts, passed away on March 28, 2016. Born in North Adams, Massachusetts, Helen found her professional niche early in life. She began her long career in the restaurant and catering industry at Le Country Restaurant in Williamstown. From there, she worked at the Mill on the Floss, where she became dining room manager. Helen then continued her career at Williams College. She began as manager of the college's Faculty Club and was later promoted to Associate Director of Dining Services. In 2002, she left Williams in order to fulfill her long-time dream of having her own restaurant. She opened Helen's Place, a popular and successful eatery and catering company located on Spring St. in Williamstown. She operated Helen's Place until her retirement in 2010. In addition to her dedication to her children and her many career successes, Helen was a non-traditional student; she earned her Bachelor's degree from Southern Vermont College in 1995. She was also dedicated to helping the community at large by volunteering for a variety of organizations, including Hospice of Northern Berkshire; Habitat for Humanity; Santa Fund; and Williamstown Visiting Nurses Association. She is survived by her 4 children: James Aitken, Rebecca Lough, Stephen Aitken, Sarah Aitken; 3 grandchildren: Trevor Lough, Grant Aitken, and Quinn Aitken; and 2 brothers: Donald Cohen and Jason Cohen. Private burial will take place in Congregation Beth Israel Cemetery in Clarksburg, MA. A celebration of her life will be held later this spring

## **Todah Rabah!**

**Suzanne Graver** for inaugurating a new committee dedicated to bringing great speakers to CBI. Stay tuned - this is going to be very interesting!

**Jen Burt** and her family for an amazing, over-the-top Purim and her help at Pesach!  
All the marvelous participants in the Harry Potter Purim Spiel!

**Len Radin** for taking fantastic photographs!

**Susan Hogan** for taking the lead on Seder planning!  
Everyone who worked to create a wonderful and memorable Passover Seder!

**Jane Miller** and **Barbara Kaplan** for Ruthie's Lunch Bunch!

**The Shamashim** for hosting our Shabbats.

**The Take and Eat volunteers** for wonderful once-a-month Sunday lunches cooked, packed and delivered to the homebound in North Adams.

**Beth Callahan** and **Heather Levy** and **Susan Welsch** and **Rose Ellis** and **Pattie Lipman** for volunteering at the CBI Community Hebrew School.

**Maribeth Pomerantz** for organizing a parent's support group for the Bar Mitzvah boys and their families!

**Stephen Green** and **Rose Ellis** for leading meditation training and practice.

**Chaim Bronstein** for delivering the Berkshire Jewish Voice to local businesses; initiating the new CBI North Adams Jewish Historical Society and leading the CBI Book Group.

**Chris Kelly** for leading services!

**Michael Kaplan** for creating and leading a class on **The Books at the Foundation of Judaism Today!**

**Barbara Bashevkin** for her reporting for this Newsletter!

**The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires** for support in many areas of synagogue life including for our Hebrew School.

**And everyone else – you know who you are - but if we don't – please let us know who to thank!**

Friends:

Your donations are appreciated! If you have books or other items to donate to CBI, call Chaim Bronstein at 917/609-6732. Please do not just drop them off.

# Vice President's Column

By Liz Miller



Our synagogue serves as a hub of the Jewish community, offering traditional Jewish functions such as Shabbat services, holiday celebrations, and Hebrew education, as well as opportunities for social gatherings (e.g., our annual game night, July 4<sup>th</sup> picnic, Ruthie's Lunch Bunch), cultural edification (e.g., book club, movie series, speakers), and social action (e.g., Take and Eat, winter pajama drive). These offerings are made possible by many hard-working individuals who give their time and energy to planning and running these events and ensuring they are a success. We are always in need of more such volunteers.

What causes you to engage? Why do you belong to the synagogue? What services/ functions/ opportunities do you take part in and what services/ functions/ opportunities would you like to see offered that are not?

We are always looking for new people to donate their time or talents. These do not need to be large commitments – even staying to help clean up after an event is appreciated. We are seeking people to spearhead new projects and initiatives. We welcome new ideas, especially if you are willing to help make those ideas realities. We also need people to help with holidays and specific events and people to help with PR and communications. Our standing committees welcome new members. These committees

meet at a variety of times, scheduled to accommodate the needs of their members.

So, how can you help? Contact a committee chair to get involved – their names and contact information are provided below. If you don't have time for a committee, contact Pattie ([plipman@fairpoint.net](mailto:plipman@fairpoint.net)) or me ([emiller@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto:emiller@isenberg.umass.edu)) with your interests and time availability. Or, if you see an event you want to be part of, contact us or the organizer, to find out how you can help.

As we move into this Passover season, representing spring and a time of renewal, think about what CBI means to you and how you can become more involved. Pattie and I hope to hear from you.

## CBI COMMITTEES

Financial (includes fundraising, investments, development) – contact Sue Hogan, [shogan@williams.edu](mailto:shogan@williams.edu)

Spiritual Life – contact Steven Green, ([StevenGreenLawOffice@gmail.com](mailto:StevenGreenLawOffice@gmail.com))

Chesed (good deeds) – contact Jane Shiyah, ([jawss13@gmail.com](mailto:jawss13@gmail.com))

Chevra Kadisha (relates to preparing body for burial) – males contact Len Radin ([lenradin@gmail.com](mailto:lenradin@gmail.com)); females contact Darlene Radin ([darleneradin@gmail.com](mailto:darleneradin@gmail.com))

Shamashim (Shabbat hosts) – contact Jack Hockridge  
([cbioffice1@verizon.net](mailto:cbioffice1@verizon.net))

Religious School – contact David Arfa  
([maggiddavid@gmail.com](mailto:maggiddavid@gmail.com)) or Laura Thompson  
([ljdthompson1@verizon.net](mailto:ljdthompson1@verizon.net))

Adult Education (library, book group, film series) –  
contact Chaim Bronstein ([chaim@bcn.net](mailto:chaim@bcn.net))

Adult Education (speakers) – contact Suzanne Graver  
([sgraver@williams.edu](mailto:sgraver@williams.edu))

Membership Committee – contact Liz Miller  
([emiller@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto:emiller@isenberg.umass.edu)) or Alice Cande  
([amcmediator@yahoo.com](mailto:amcmediator@yahoo.com))

Public Relations – contact Pattie Lipman  
([plipman@fairpoint.net](mailto:plipman@fairpoint.net))

Newsletter – contact Pattie Lipman  
([plipman@fairpoint.net](mailto:plipman@fairpoint.net))

Events Committee – contact Pattie Lipman  
([plipman@fairpoint.net](mailto:plipman@fairpoint.net))

Building/Grounds Committee – contact David  
Pomerantz ([dpomerantz@bhs1.org](mailto:dpomerantz@bhs1.org))

Cemetery Committee – contact Jane Miller  
([janesm@roadrunner.com](mailto:janesm@roadrunner.com))

Take & Eat – contact Ed Oshinsky  
([eoshinsky@yahoo.com](mailto:eoshinsky@yahoo.com))

Webmaster – contact Len Radin  
([lenradin@gmail.com](mailto:lenradin@gmail.com))



Janneke von de Stadt

CBI's Book Group is discussing Isaac Babel's "Autobiographical Stories" on May 23, 7 p.m. Babel has been acclaimed "the greatest prose writer of Russian Jewry."

Janneke von de Stadt, a Professor of Russian at Williams College, will introduce and discuss these wonderful stories with us. Everyone is welcome. Please join us for this exciting event. A packet containing these stories (67 pages) can be obtained, upon request, after April 25th, by contacting Jack Hockridge at [office@cbiweb.org](mailto:office@cbiweb.org). A small charge of 10 cents per page is requested to help defray the cost of copying.

Book Group Schedule - For more information contact Chaim Bronstein.

Name of Book	Additional Information	Author	Year	Genre	Number of Pages	Day, Time & Date of Meeting
The Girl From Human Street	History of a Jewish Family	Roger Cohen	2015	Memoir	300	Monday, 7:00 PM Jun 27, 2016
Costantine's Sword	A History of The Church and the Jews	James Carrol	2001	History	Only the first 234	Monday, 7:00 PM Aug 29, 2016
Killing a King	Rabin's Assassination	Dan Ephron	2015	History	300	Monday, 7:00 PM Oct 24, 2016
My Father's Paradise		Ariel Sabar	2009	Biography	325 + Appendices	Monday, 7:00 PM Dec 19, 2016

## Donations With Deep Thanks for your Generosity:

### **Take & Eat Donations**

Joel & Bernice Breslau

In honor of Eddie Oshinsky on receiving MICAH Award

Becky & Daniel Cellana

In honor of Dr. Jonah Marshall

Cindy Polinsky & Martin Walter IV

In honor of Eddie Oshinsky on receiving MICAH Award

Ron Turbin

In honor of Eddie Oshinsky on receiving MICAH Award

### **Chesed Donation**

Jane Shiyah

### **High Holidays Appeal**

Heather Levy & Tim Herrmann

### **Memorial/Celebration Donations to CBI**

Robin Brickman & Jefferson Strait

In celebration of the birth of Hazel Lillian Strait

Richard & Anna Jo Dubow

In memory of Ruth Dubow

Lillian Glickman

In memory of Marion Patashnick, Ruth Kelman & Mort Freedman

Jerrold & Carol Jacobs

In memory of Morris Jacobs

Barbara Mindel

In memory of Esta Feder

Dr. George Rosenthal, Jane Fanburg, Phyllis

In memory of Dr. Arthur Rosenthal & Edith Rosenthal

Sands

In memory of Edith & Arthur Rosenthal

Phyllis Sands

In memory of Barbara Silverman

Jane Shiyah

In memory of Florence Wineberg

Howard & Deborah Wineberg

Susan and Charles Welsch

In memory of Irving Golub

### **Additional Donations to CBI**

Morgan & Sarah McGuire

Audrey Thier & Peter Murphy

Jacob & Dora Wineberg Fund

### **Education Grants**

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Harold Grinspoon Foundation

## CBI Reader of the Month

Ezra the Scribe has selected John Huffaker, husband of CBI President Pattie Lipman, as “Reader of the Month” John is currently reading Flavius Josephus and The Sword of Constantine. To be considered for this honor, simply take out books from our wonderful CBI Library.

## More from the Rabbi: Want To Meet With Me?

One of the great joys of this line of work is meeting when y'all want to talk. Whether you want to talk about synagogue business or about the intimate happenings of your spiritual life or your heart, I am honored to be able to listen to you.

In an emergency, I am always available. If the situation is not an emergency, I want to encourage you to reach out and make an appointment to see me (rather than just dropping in.)

I usually spend Mondays and Fridays doing synagogue work, but sometimes that work takes me out of the building -- e.g. if someone makes a pastoral care appointment with me and wants to meet at their place instead of at the shul -- so even on the days when I'm fully focused on synagogue work, I'm not always sitting behind the desk in the synagogue office.

If you know you're going to want to meet with me, it's helpful to me if you can drop me an email or give me a call and set up a meeting time. That way I can block out thirty minutes or an hour on my calendar, and I'll know that I will be dedicating that time to you (so I won't, for instance, be counting on that as time I need in order to prepare for Shabbat or whatever is next on my docket.)

I look forward to seeing you at CBI!

*Rabbi Rachel*

## Upcoming Occasions

*We wish happy birthdays and anniversaries to our members who have simchas during the coming months.*

### May Birthdays

Erin Casey  
Becky Cellana  
Adam Cohen  
Madeline Cohen  
Rose Ellis  
Steve Fein  
John Gerry  
Sophie Gerry  
Marc Gotlieb  
Jerrold Jacobs  
Margaret Larabee

William Levy  
Catherine McAllister  
Elizabeth Miller  
Robert Miller  
Carol Oshinsky  
Kayla Rooney  
Ethan Rudin  
Sheila Shapiro  
Andrew Sullivan  
Jacob Thompson  
Danielle Wineberg

### June Birthdays

Anne Apkin  
Joseph Apkin  
Helene Armet  
Robert Bashevkin  
Jordan Callahan  
Carrie Greene  
Noah Howard  
Addison Lentzner  
Elizabeth Miller  
David Pomerantz  
Miriam Pomerantz  
Kenneth Sann  
Jared Strait  
Deborah Wineberg

### Anniversaries

#### May

Joseph & Anne Apkin  
Heather Levy & Timothy Herrmann  
Richard & Elaine Parmett  
Jay & Sheila Shapiro  
Lawrence & Judith Weber  
Paul & Karol White

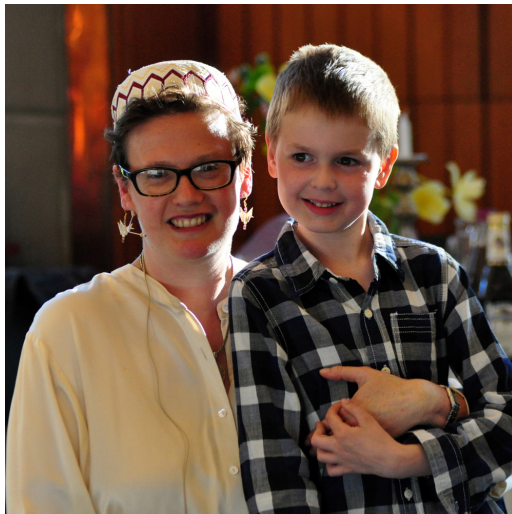
#### June

Rabbi Rachel Barenblat & Ethan Zuckerman  
Robin Brickman & Jefferson Strait  
Richard & Anna Jo Dubow  
Philip & Lori Guy  
Jerrold & Carol Jacobs  
Audrey Thier & Peter Murphy  
David & Maribeth Pomerantz  
Richard & Patricia Reichler  
Dr. Kenneth & Fern Sann  
Michael & Pamela Smith

## Todah Rabah! A Dank! Merci Beaucoup!

**Rabbi Rachel, Susan Hogan, Jen Burt and Billy, Steven Green, Jane Shiyah and all of you who gave your time and love.**

**You made the CBI Seder a memorable, complete and joyous occasion!**  
*(Photos by Len Radin)*



## Community Hebrew School News



Spread the news! Arts are taking over at the CBI Community Hebrew School. Even for our Hand in Hand program. Hand in Hand is our program for 2-5 year olds. We learned of Purim this year with a Purim Puppetry Performance and Puppet Making Party..complete with all the bagels you can eat! We opened this up to our entire school and wider synagogue community and found it terrific for all. It not only brought in a critical mass of CBIniks, non-members came too, because they saw it advertised in the Berkshire Eagle!

Watch for these new kind of 'bigger than life' programs happening every other month. All are invited. Our May adventure will have a Judaism and Nature theme. Check out our new school website at [www.cbihebrewschool.weebly.com](http://www.cbihebrewschool.weebly.com) for all the details and photo's, past, present and future.



Have you come in on a Monday afternoon and heard ukuleles? That's our new ukulele orchestra. Perhaps you've seen a play rehearsal with kids running around with wigs and costumes? Thanks to teacher Jane Shiyah plays and stories are a regular part of the Alef Tav class. Using best educational practices, Hebrew is taught with all the senses...especially popular are the human body and wet noodle letters (yep, wet noodles!).

The Alef Tav class is happy to share their room with families at services and holiday events, though please, straighten and place everything back. Sometimes, after an energetic Shabbat, the room takes lots of work to get ready to teach.

Rabbi Jarah's class is growing an amazing table sized map of Israel. An educator at MASS MoCa (and member of the board- hint, hint) saw it and wished she had room to display it there! It's that good! Tours of the land will be offered for all who want as we get closer to Yom HaAtzma'ut on Wednesday May 11. Earlier in the year, the students went deep with the Shema prayer and showed their learning with homemade games that made our Chanukah celebration extra fun!



Both classes are supported by the nationally recognized Hebrew through Movement program to introduce prayers and blessings. As the title suggests, this program uses movement to reinforce Hebrew learning. Parent assistants are always welcome! Please contact David at [david@maggiddavid.net](mailto:david@maggiddavid.net).

Reb Rachel's Bar Mitzvah class (yes, it's a group of 5 boys this year) are creating Talitot (hebrew plural for Talit) or Talisim (yiddish plural for Talis). All the students are drawing meaningful images on their Talit. In addition to their Hebrew prayer work, they are also practicing their Torah portions and have spent time learning the traditional method of asking questions of the texts they are reading. Another innovative activity that this class is engaged with is exploring Mitzvot..not by just learning about, but by doing! All students are choosing several mitzvot to try on for a month and then reporting on the effects.

Everyone is invited to Jeremy Guy's Shabbat service on April 30. He will be the first of our crew this year to transition into Jewish adulthood, or as I like to remind "young adulthood". Please come out to wish the whole Guy family a hearty mazel tov on this wonderful occasion.



### **SYNAGOGUE OFFICE HOURS & PHONE NUMBERS**

Office:  
Monday - Friday  
10am - 1pm  
Phone & Fax (413) 663-5830

Website: [www.cbiweb.org](http://www.cbiweb.org)  
E-mail: [cbioffice@verizon.net](mailto:cbioffice@verizon.net)  
Visit our Facebook page!

Rabbi's Study:  
Mondays 9am-3:30pm  
Fridays 9am-4:00pm  
~ by appointment.  
Meditation minyan 9am Fridays  
  
E-mail: [rabbibarenblat@gmail.com](mailto:rabbibarenblat@gmail.com)  
  
Phone (413) 822-5267

### **July/Aug Newsletter deadline is June 15!**

Rabbi: Rachel Barenblat  
President: Pattie Lipman – by appt. Mondays  
[plipman@fairpoint.net](mailto:plipman@fairpoint.net) 518/281-7340  
Synagogue Administrator: Jack Hockridge  
Newsletter Editor: Pattie Lipman