



Congregation Beth Israel
חבורת בית ישראל

CBI NEWSletter

July/August 2015 - Tamuz / Av / Elul 5775

From the Rabbi

Holy friends,

As I write these words, July is on its way. I am sorry that I'll be missing our annual 4th of July picnic (this year to be held at the home of Cheryl Sacks and Rich Cohen in Lanesboro; I hope you've already tendered your RSVP!) But I have



a good reason for missing our party: I'll be in West Chester, PA for a very special celebration.

Some of you may know that the book which led me to Jewish Renewal, and therefore to my rabbinate (and to being able to serve y'all!), is Rodger Kamenetz's *The Jew in the Lotus*.

The Jew in the Lotus tells the true story of a diverse group of rabbis, representing the whole denominational spectrum, who traveled together to India to meet with the Dalai Lama. The Dalai Lama had asked to learn our wisdom: how have we maintained our peoplehood over two thousand years of exile? A group of rabbis went to offer their thoughts, and they took along a poet to tell the tale.

This summer marks the 25th anniversary of that historic journey. I'll be gathering with a few hundred others to celebrate that anniversary over the Fourth of July weekend. We'll sing and dance our way through Shabbat, pray-

ing and learning with Jewish Renewal leaders alongside some of the other Jewish leaders who went to Dharamsala -- and also religious leaders from other faith-traditions. The weekend will culminate in a Sunday program called *Living the Legacy: Tracing Reb Zalman's Vision, From Dharamsala to the Future*. (That program can be livestreamed if you make a small donation at aleph.org/together)



This is the logo for the weekend... it's also one of the two bumper stickers on my car.

I hope to come home with my spirits enlivened and my heart enriched, and to bring some of the sweetness of that retreat weekend with me back to CBI. (And I know of two other CBI members who are going, so I won't be the only one bringing those experiences back here.)

There's so much happening at CBI this summer: we're deep in high holiday preparations already, we've hired a fabulous new teacher to join our Hebrew school team for next year, and in the fall we'll be bringing back regular Friday night / Kabbalat Shabbat observances at CBI. It's a perennial joy and honor to serve this community. May your summer be sweet!

Blessings -- Rabbi Rachel

Service times

Periodic Friday nights (check our website)

Every Saturday
9:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
11ish a.m. Kiddush/Torah Study

Meditation minyan
Friday mornings, **9a.m.**

Note: no meditation on July 3, 17, 31, and Aug. 7.

July/August Shabbat candle and Havdalah times



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

July 3 8:12 lighting; July 4 9:20 havdalah
July 10 8:10 lighting; July 11 9:17 havdalah
July 17 8:06 lighting; July 18 9:13 havdalah
July 24 8:01 lighting; July 15 9:08 havdalah
July 31 7:54 lighting; August 1 9:01 havdalah
August 7 7:46 lighting; August 8 8:53 havdalah
August 14 7:37 lighting; Aug 15 8:43 havdalah
August 21 7:27 lighting; Aug 22 8:33 havdalah
Aug 28 7:16 lighting; Aug 29 8:22 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.



WE WANT YOU!

Want to Edit This Newsletter?

We're seeking a volunteer to edit this newsletter! The CBI Newsletter comes out every two months. The editor's job is to compile submissions (and also to solicit them when required), to collect them into a readable and pleasant format, and to get a pdf of the newsletter to the office and the rabbi so that it can be uploaded to the From the Rabbi blog, emailed to our membership, and sent via postal mail to those who have requested paper newsletters. You can use whatever word processing program is comfortable for you.

If you are interested in taking this on, please let the rabbi know at rabbibarenblat@gmail.com. Thanks!

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 (office@cbi-web.org)

Tikkun Olam Update

Starting this June you can drop off toiletry items such as soaps and shampoos, brushes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwashes, deodorants etc., in the small basket of the shopping cart in the CBI coat room. They will be given to the Louison House in Adams or to the Elizabeth Freeman Center in Pittsfield.

The Louison House, (413) 743-7957, is a family life support center that provides transitional and permanent housing solutions for the homeless. The Elizabeth Freeman Center, www.elizabethfreemancenter.org/, "provides hope, help, and healing to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault—in Berkshire County, MA and surrounding areas.,

Mazal Tov

To Matt Hogan who graduated from MGRHS and young Drew Zuckerman and RoseE Rudin who graduated from the Williamstown Community Preschool.

Congratulations to Chip Joffe-Halprin on retiring from ECU Health Care, and to Al Bashkevkin who is leaving the NBCC.

Warm congratulations to Dan Hogan and Catie McDonough on their recent marriage!

To Rose Gotlieb upon becoming bat mitzvah, and for her successful book drive (she collected childrens' books for those who do not have.)

Gift from Reverend Peter H. Pierson

by Chaim E. Bronstein

While having my morning coffee at Wild Oats I met and spoke with the retired, Reverend Peter Pierson. Interestingly, Reverend Pierson loves to sprinkle his conversation with Hebrew words and he has led Christian groups on tours of Israel many times. We had a good talk.

Reverend Pierson offered CBI a gift of three boxes of books for our Library which I gratefully accepted. Subjects include Judaism/Israel/some very interesting collected newspaper articles in binders/maps/Hebrew language books.

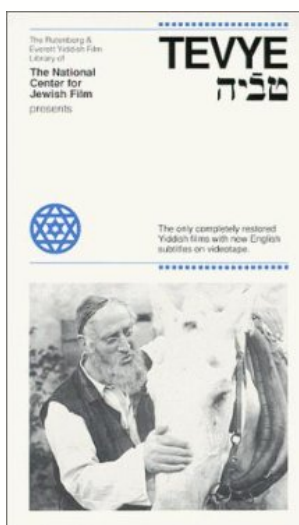
The books are being sorted for inclusion into our Library and hopefully will be ready for you to browse through and read soon. I hope one day Reverend Pierson will come by CBI for a visit and we can thank him personally. In the meantime we acknowledge and thank him for his generosity!

By the way, did you know that we have many books, scholarly, religious, historical and popular, for both youth and adult, patiently waiting for readers? And we have cookbooks! The Congregation also subscribes to *Lilith* Magazine and *The Forward*. If you have any questions about the Library please contact me. Chaim@bcn.net

Friends, Films, and Lox & Bagel Brunch

Congregation Beth Israel's Sunday Morning Film series continued exploring the theme of Interfaith Romantic Relationships with a showing of *Keeping The Faith* (2000) on July 12th.

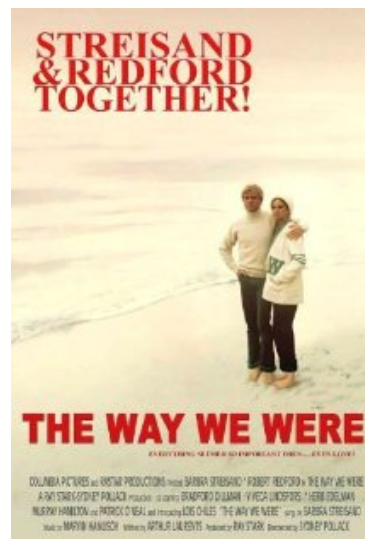
"Actor Edward Norton debuts as a director with this comedy-drama about love, friendship, and faith. Priest Brian Finn (Norton) and rabbi Jacob Schram (Stiller) have known each other since childhood. When Anna Reilly (Jenna Elfman), whom they both knew as children, returns to New York, both men find themselves infatuated with her, sparking both rivalry and personal dilemmas: Brian has taken a vow of celibacy, and Jacob is allowed to marry only within his faith. Award-winning director Milos Forman appears in the supporting cast, alongside Anne Bancroft, Ron Rifkin, and Eli Wallach..." ~ Mark Deming



Tevye (1939), written and directed by Maurice Schwartz, on August 2nd.

"Tevye is a dairyman in the Russian Ukraine early in the 20th century. He lives in a cabin outside Boyberik with his wife Goldie, his widowed daughter Tseytl, her two children, and his younger daughter, the unmarried Khave. Khave is being courted by Fedya, a Christian, the son of a local government official. Tevye

warns Khave against romance and marriage outside her faith, but Fedya is persuasive too. What will Khave decide, how will Tevye react, and when the Tsar initiates a pogrom, will Tevye's friends come to his defense? Can the stubborn Tevye reconcile his heart and tradition? "On the other hand..." J. Hailey



The Way We Were (1973), on August 30th. Opposites attract when, during their college days, Katie Morosky, a politically active Jew, meets Hubbell Gardiner, a feckless WASP. Years later, in the wake of World War II, they meet again and, despite their obvious differences, marry. Hubbell wants to be a screenwriter, so the two move to California despite Katie's objections. They prosper there, but as the Hollywood blacklist looms, Katie's activism threatens her husband's reputation. The film was Directed by Sidney Pollack and the credits for the Screenplay include Arthur Laurents, Frances Ford Coppola and Dalton Trumbo.

Arrive at 11:11am for a lox and bagel Brunch, the film and conversation.

The CBI Film Series is in its third year and is curated by Chaim Bronstein. Previous years films have included French-Jewish films and Mexican-Jewish films. There is no charge.

Lay-Led Kabbalat Shabbat & Dinner: Serve the Lord with Joy - Come Before The Presence With Singing!

by Pattie Lipman



On the first of May CBI members welcomed the Shabbat bride with a Mincha and Maariv service that were created especially for that evening by Michael Kaplan. Michael researched and orchestrated the service of prayers, blessings and songs, created the transliteration and made a special siddur-booklet for the occasion.

After the sabbath candles were lit with the blessing given by Jane and Barbara, Michael beautifully led the first part of the service.



There were melodies by Reb Shlomo Carlebach and some from the Braslav Chassidim, as well as a chant from Rabbi Shefa Gold. Did you receive the mp3's of the tunes in advance of the service? Some of the tunes were new. This was in part a teaching service.



Maariv was led by Bob Greenberg, about whose voice someone later remarked, "wow, does he have some pipes!" After kiddush led by Steven Green we sat down for a delicious dinner from Debra Gallagher Catering. We had red and white wine (courtesy of Ruthie's Lunch Bunch) and desert and people hung around talking after dinner. It was great to have our community share shabbat!



About 42 people attended, filling the Ada and Paul Paresky Sanctuary for the service and the Rudnick Family Social Hall for the delicious dinner and conversation. The sweet floral arrangements were by Suzanne Graver. Everything about the dinner, all the creativity and work, the set up and clean up, is thanks to Jane and Barbara.



This Kabbalat Shabbat service and dinner came about through the meticulous planning and efforts of Michael Kaplan, Barbara Kaplan, Jane Miller, Robert Miller and Patricia Lipman. It started out with a conversation between Michael and Steven, the Chair of the Spiritual Life Committee, one afternoon after the Lunch Bunch and came to fruition months later. Being able to share this shabbat together was very special and will be long remembered.

Spring Cleaning Volunteers Needed at Louison House

Currently Louison House and Family Life Support Center is looking for folks to help with various projects around our Louison House facility. If you are interested in lending a hand, please call 413-743-7957 x14

Deep Thanks...

Tto Dan Denault for help in fixing the tree that fell in our cemetery!

To retired Pastor Peter Pierson, who gave us books for the CBI library (for more information, ask Chaim Bronstein.)

And to all the teachers and aides from this apst Hebrew school year: we couldn't do it without you!

Thank you to Maribeth and David Pomerantz for keeping our garden circle beautiful, the lovely flowers in front of the building and for various other tasks to help maintain CBI's grounds.

An Update from Take & Eat

Here are some of the comments from clients to whom we deliver meals:

Please tell everyone how wonderful it is to have a knock on the door and a full meal is gifted to us. Also all of the delivery people who give up their time to do so. God Bless Everyone.

Once again I wish to express my thanks to your cooks, delivery folks and your cute little folder for comments. I hope you receive lots of notes. Everyone certainly deserves a big thank you.

Enjoyed the meal from your church. Please thank all the people who make the meals possible. Also thank the men and women who deliver them. Thank everyone involved; everyone enjoys each and every meal.

Great meals! Thank you all for all your work. God will bless you all.

Excellent meal! God bless all of you. I appreciate your effort and generosity.

Thank you for the delicious meal and kind deliverers.

Thank you for the delicious meals. Sorry, I am blind and can't write a lot.

Thanks, Jewish Federation!

Congregation Beth Israel gratefully acknowledges the receipt of \$7661 from the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires in support of our students' Jewish education. Each student in the CBI religious school received a tuition subsidy of \$333 for the school year. This funding, raised during the Federation's 2014 annual campaign, is a vital part of our school budget and we highly encourage every member of CBI to contribute to the Federation's Annual Campaign.

Two online classes this August, open to all

These ALEPH offerings are open to the general public; no prior permission is needed for registration.

Biblical Hebrew 101

Instructor: Rabbi Bob Freedman

Meeting Time: Monday 7 to 8:30 pm (eastern) — first meeting August 17, 2015 (13 weekly meetings)

Areas covered: nouns, study recognition and translation of the seven binyanim and weak (irregular) verbs and other topics. The course employs texts from Genesis, *parashiot ha-shavuah*, and siddur. The goals of these courses are a solid grounding in translation and interpretation of classical Hebrew texts.

If you think you would like to take the course, but don't know if you are either not advanced enough or too advanced, please call Rabbi Bob Freedman at 609-921-1562 (New Jersey).

Yesh Sod L'Dvar: Themes of Jewish Mystical Tradition

Instructor: Rabbi Laura Duhan Kaplan

Meeting Time: Monday 5 to 7 pm (eastern) — first meeting August 17, 2015 (13 weekly meetings)

This course is an engaged study of the development of Jewish mysticism, its symbolic universe, meditation practices, and social ramifications. While we will survey Jewish mystical traditions from the early Rabbinic period through the modern, the heart of the course is that many-branched (post)-medieval stream known as kabbalah.

Register at <https://aleph.org/civcrm/event/register?id=53&reset=1>

Next Newsletter...

If you have items to submit for the Sept/Oct newsletter, please submit them **via e-mail** to rabbibarenblat@gmail.com by **Aug 15, 2014.**

Thanks!

Starting in September we're going to be bringing back Friday night Shabbat observance at CBI; we'll be holding some kind of Kabbalat Shabbat ("Receiving the Shabbat" or "Welcoming the Shabbat Bride") experience on the first

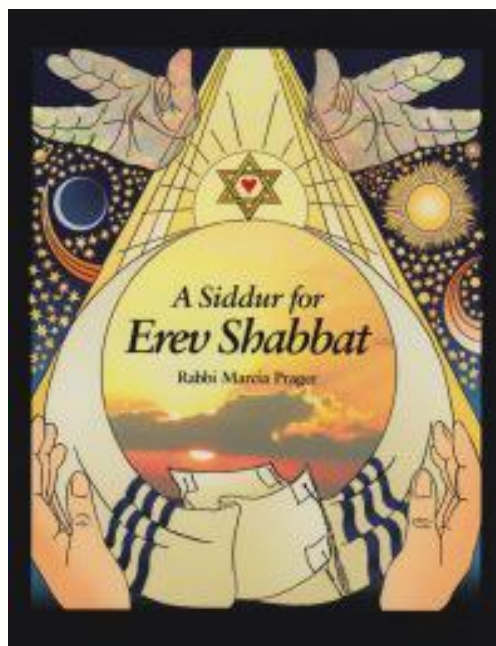
Friday of every month. In late August, we'll offer this celebration of Shabbat to remind us how sweet it can be to close out the week with togetherness, prayer, song, and rejoicing.



Congregation Beth Israel
חבורת בית ישראל



Join us on Friday, August 28 at 7pm
for *Kabbalat Shabbat*
("Welcoming the Sabbath Bride")



led by Rabbi Rachel Barenblat
& Rabbi David Markus

*Expect spirit and heart
song and praise
music, teachings, and joy!*

*Join us in wearing white
to welcome the Sabbath bride.*



Vegetarian / dairy potluck at 6pm; please RSVP for the meal.

DAYS OF AWE AT CBI 2015 / 5776

Havdalah & Selichot ("Pardons") service, Sat. Sept. 5, 8pm

(potluck dessert reception to follow)

Cemetery Service, Walker Street, Sun. Sept. 6, 2pm

ROSH HASHANAH

Rosh Hashanah First Evening service, Sun. Sept. 13, 7:30pm

Rosh Hashanah First Day morning service, Mon. Sept. 14, 9:30am

Children's service, 10am (childcare all morning)

Tashlich (casting bread upon the waters) to follow

Rosh Hashanah Lunch at a local restaurant to follow that; please RSVP!

Rosh Hashanah Second Day morning service, Tues. Sept. 15, 9:30am

YOM KIPPUR

Kol Nidre (with childcare) Tues. Sept. 22, 6pm *(arrive at 5:30 for music to open the heart)*

Yom Kippur Morning service, Weds. Sept. 23, 9:30am

Children's service, 10am (childcare all morning)

Yizkor / Memorial Service will follow at the end of the morning service

Mussar (spiritual self-improvement) study after Yizkor

Yom Kippur Mincha and Avodah service, 4pm

Spiritual discussion, 5pm

Yom Kippur Ne'ilah service, 6pm (sundown: 6:42)

*Yom Kippur **Break-The-Fast**: after services. Please RSVP!*

SUKKOT

Sukkot / Shabbat Potluck, Fri. Oct. 2, 5:30pm

Shemini Atzeret services, with **Yizkor**, Mon. Oct 5, 10am

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 for 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.

July Birthdays

7/4 Edith Taskin
7/5 Fern Sann

7/7 Elizabeth Cohen
7/9 Robin Brickman
7/9 Chaim Bronstein
7/9 Cindy Polinsky
7/9 Emily Sullivan
7/11 Dr. Len Radin
7/11 Theo Sandstrom
7/15 Beverly Hertzog
7/17 Roberta Saunders
7/21 Philip Guy
7/21 Sherry Wein
7/22 Dr. Darlene Radin
7/24 Anna Jo Dubow
7/27 Ellen Bernstein
7/27 Maxx Sann
7/28 Beth Callahan
7/29 Richard Reichler

August Birthdays

8/1 Lindsay Kushnet
8/2 Rachael Hogan
8/3 Cole Filson
8/7 Pamela Smith
8/7 Paulette Wein
8/8 Sadie Lentzner
8/9 Sam Guy
8/10 Maude Rich
8/12 Marion Patashnick
8/12 Adam Pomerantz
8/14 Karen Kelly
8/17 Suzanne Graver
8/20 Alice Rudin
8/24 Martin Walter IV
8/25 Phyllis Sands
8/26 Hannah Fein
8/30 Rachel Shiyah-Satullo

July Anniversaries

7/4 David & Deborah Rothschild
7/5 Richard Cohen & Cheryl Sacks
7/15 Howard & Roberta Saunders
7/18 Robert & Beverly Hertzog
7/25 Adam & Amy Filson
7/27 Steven Green & Rose Ellis

August Anniversaries

8/4 Len & Darlene Radin
8/18 Stuart & Helene Armet
8/18 Elizabeth & Steven Miller

8/20 Carol & Edward Oshinsky
8/21 Robert & Barbara Bashevkin
8/22 Carrie Greene & James McAllister
8/27 Warner & Amely Smith
8/28 Dustin & Beth Wees
8/29 Joan Rubel & David LaChance
8/30 Michael & Barbara Kaplan

Deep thanks to donors

*We offer gratitude to members and friends
for their fiscal support of CBI.*

In Memory of Irving Bashevkin

Madeline & Elizabeth Cohen
Mark Gold & Ellen Kennedy
Ed & Carol Oshinsky (To Take & Eat)
Michael & Pamela Smith
Warner & Amely Smith

Designated Donations

Chesed from Bob & Barbara Bashevkin

Take & Eat from The Monday Afternoon
Mahjong Group

Take & Eat From Ed & Carol Oshinsky

Special Donation

Florence Wineberg Revocable Trust

Additional Donations to CBI

In memory of Saul Dubow
Richard & Anna Jo Dubow

In memory of Goldie Rubin
Lois & Albert Feldman

In memory of Frieda Jacobs
Jerrold & Carol Jacobs
In memory of Tillie Goldstein
Myrna Katz

In Loving Memory of Ida Feder
Dick Klein

In memory of Howard Lenhoff

Sylvia Lenhoff

In memory of Shirley Frankfurt
Ellen Schiff

In memory of Bernard Wishnek
Jane Shiyah

In memory of Mervin Wineberg
Howard & Deborah Wineberg

Seeking Shamashim

The Shamashim are the people who facilitate the Saturday morning services, set out kiddush and bring some snacks for after services. The group is named after the *shamash*, the "helper candle" which lights the candles on a Chanukah menorah.

We are in need of additional Shamashim to help with our Shabbat services each Saturday morning and on periodic Friday nights. The Shamashim have been faithfully hosting our services for years but we need to expand that group by a few. It takes a Saturday morning, from about 9 to noon, once or twice in a 4 month time period.

Hosting services is an honor. It is also a joy, a way to meet members and welcome potential members and visitors. Bringing your children or spouse is welcome, and they can help or just relax and enjoy the service and the beautiful light streaming through the sanctuary windows. That's up to you.

Helping at services is a way to teach children about serving the community and performing a mitzvah.

We provide challah and juice; you are welcome to bring light snacks for the kiddush afterwards, though if that would be fiscally onerous for you, let us know and we can work something out. If it is something you would like to try, Pattie can match you with one of our hosts for your first hosting experience. If you have questions, ask away!

Congregation Beth Israel
53 Lois Street
North Adams MA 01247

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
North Adams, MA
01247
Permit Number 56

SYNAGOGUE OFFICE HOURS & PHONE NUMBERS

Office:
Monday - Friday
9am - 1pm

Phone & Fax (413) 663-5830
E-mail cbioffice1@verizon.net

Rabbi's Study:
Mondays 9am-3:30pm
Fridays 9am-4pm
(meditation minyan 9am)

please make an appointment

Phone (413) 822-5267
E-mail rabbibarenblat@gmail.com

Rabbi: Rachel Barenblat
President: Pattie Lipman
Synagogue Administrator: Jack Hockridge
Newsletter Editor: Rabbi Rachel Barenblat