



Congregation Beth Israel  
חבורת בית ישראל

**CBI NEWSletter**

March/April 2015 - Adar / Nisan / Iyar 5775

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## From the Rabbi

Holy friends,

As I write these words to you in late February we are still in the deep freeze of this most extraordinary winter. But Purim is right around the corner, and a month after that comes Pesach; our calendar promises me that spring will come!



If I had to choose a favorite holiday of the year, it would be Passover, no question about it.

I've loved Passover ever since I was a kid. My parents and I used to fly to Dallas every year to celebrate two nights of Pesach with my father's sister and brother-in-law, my Aunt Sylvia and Uncle Bill, who live in Dallas. When I was an adolescent we started alternating years between Dallas and San Antonio, but either way, the same vast family clan came every time: my father's siblings, their children, eventually their children's children.

It's hard for me to put a finger on exactly why I fell in love with Pesach. Today I can wax rhapsodic about how central the holiday's story is -- we remind ourselves of the Exodus from Egypt in daily prayer! -- but as a kid I don't think the liberation narrative mattered that much to me. What mattered to me was that it was a time to get together with family, year after year.

I love the songs of Pesach, even though in my adult life we don't sing all of the songs with which I grew up. I love the tastes of Pesach: matzah ball soup, horseradish, gefilte fish, matzah, haroset. I love the rituals and traditions of Pesach.

And I love the story. I've never been particularly agitated about the so-called controversy around whether or not the Pesach story is "true." Is it historically accurate? Probably not. But for me, that's completely beside the point. For me, what matters is that this is the story we tell about who we are: once we were slaves, and now we are free. Once we were in a place of constriction, and now God has blessed us with expansiveness. We all know times of constriction in our lives. May we all be blessed with a sense of wide-open expansiveness, with redemption from every narrow strait.

I hope you'll join us for our second-night community seder -- as we make new Pesach memories to complement the old. Here's to spring!

Many 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.** No experience with meditation is required; all are welcome!

## March/April Shabbat candle and Havdalah times



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

March 6 5:30p lighting; March 7 6:39 Havdalah

March 13 6:38p; March 14 7:47p Havdalah

March 20 6:46p; March 21 7:55p Havdalah

March 27 6:54p; March 29 8:04p Havdalah

April 3 7:02 lighting; April 4 8:12 Havdalah

April 10 7:10 lighting; April 11 8:20 Havdalah

April 17 7:18 lighting; April 18 8:28 Havdalah

April 24 7:26 lighting; April 25 8:36 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.

## Meet Rabbi Lori Shaller

*Rabbi Lori Shaller will be leading services at CBI a few times this spring. Here's an introduction to her -- in her own words!*

I am delighted to be *shilachat tzibur*, service leader for some of CBI's Shabbat morning services over the next few months. I was ordained as a Jewish Renewal Rabbi on January 11. Of course, your own Reb Rachel was there, and I have been blessed by and grown from her teachings for seven years now.

I live in Oak Bluffs, MA, on the Island of Martha's Vineyard, with my husband, Matt Pelikan, a Coastal Biologist for The Nature Conservancy and our cat, Pitzi, "little one," in Yiddish. We love the Island and are blessed to be part of many, intersecting communities here. Matt is engaged with, and engages me in the music, theater and conservation communities, as well as the communities with which I affiliate: the synagogue, educators, local-vores, Unitarian Universalists and other faith communities.

Living here in the beautiful Berkshires as you do, I know you can appreciate our love for the Island itself, as well as its people. I walk, play and pray in this gorgeous habitat, and this connection enriches my connection to the rest of Earth and to the Universe, allowing me to experience G!d's glory daily. The Baal Shem Tov teaches that when we've grasped a piece of something, we know it in its fullness and completeness, just as when we experience G!d in some detail, we can know G!d in all of G!d's-ness. When you live in places like we do, it's easier to understand that teaching, I think.

ALEPH is special to me because of its Earth-inclusionary theology, and also because of its people-inclusive theology. Inter-faith and inter-peoples work are at the heart of my rabbinate. I work at the micro- level, with couples and clergy groups, and also at the macro- level, offering a place at the work table for peoples of all faith and no religious faith traditions who share a desire to heal our planet and our human relations. This human

inclusivity value was very prophetically visionary of Reb Zalman Schachter Shalomi, and it is one of the ways ALEPH Jewish Renewal spoke to me. I'll be co-leading with a Unitarian Universalist minister an Inter-faith seder this coming Passover.

My final project for ordination had to do with inter-faith questions of inclusion with regard to *tahara*, and I will be one of several essayists in a forthcoming book dealing with questions of the *ger*, the "resident" in all of its categories.

I was a Rabbis without Borders Rabbinic Student fellow, and I interned and worked for a time for Rabbis for Human Rights, which is now Truah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights. I was also a participant in a Women's Retreat for Emerging Jewish, Christian and Muslim Leaders. I look forward to writing and teaching about these ideas of deeply ecumenical fellowship and sisterhood. I have lots of ideas for ways people of all traditions can pray together and heal some of the brokenness in the world, and I'm anxious to see these ideas come into fruition.

Labor justice issues are also important to me. I've written on Jewish women in the Labor Movement for the Jewish Women's Archive, an online education resource, and I've done some work on modern-day slavery in the US. Here on M.V., I'm interested working with our immigrant and transitory labor populations. I'm a gardener, walker and runner, and cook, as well as the Administrative Assistant to the Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard and a Shakespeare teacher and curriculum writer when I'm not doing Rabbi stuff, although I can get quite spiritual hanging laundry on the line or washing vegetables!

I look forward to being a guest in your community in the coming months and meeting some of you. Please introduce yourself when I'm there, so we can get to know each other some. And please always let me know if there is a special tune, a special prayer, or a special occasion of any kind to mark while I'm there, so we can celebrate and support each other and honor Reb Rachel in the doing of it.



## Special Shabbat with Gene Wein and Family

On the morning of February 21, we held our usual Shabbat morning services in an unusual location: Williamstown Commons nursing home and rehab facility.

We davened at Williamstown Commons because Gene Wein, one of CBI's most longtime members, is resident there. Gene is 93 and has been part of this community his whole life. He used to be one of our most avid "regulars" at Shabbat morning services. Now that he can't come to synagogue anymore, his family asked whether we could bring the synagogue to him.



Rabbi Rachel led a short-and-sweet Shabbat morning service which lasted about an hour. We sang as many classic melodies as we could, in hopes that the old tunes would speak to Gene.

Some thirty people were present; we packed the room. It was a truly beautiful occasion, and a reminder that -- as Elma Sanders noted -- what brings us together isn't our building, as beautiful as it is, but the traditions which we share.

## Don't Miss Purim on March 4!



**The Mad Hatter invites you  
to a Purim "tea party"  
Wednesday, March 4 at CBI  
pizza at 5:30; the celebration proper  
begins at 6**

- explore the topsy-turvy Wonderland of our building!
- play flamingo croquet!
- enjoy the childrens' costume parade!
  - savor our *Alice In Wonderland*-themed Purim Spiel!
- hear some of the megillah aloud!
  - play a variety of games!
  - enjoy a tasty beverage!
  - all are welcome to bring hamentaschen or other desserts to share — AND/OR contributions to our savory nosh buffet, which will be Middle Eastern themed (think: cheeses, olives, grape leaves, hummus...)

*Hopefully you have already RSVP'd to the synagogue office to let us know:*

- 1) How many are in your party
- 2) Whether you want to partake in pizza at 5:30
- 3) What you're bringing to the sweet-and-savory buffet. (If everyone's bringing hummus, we'll get in touch to try to diversify offerings.)

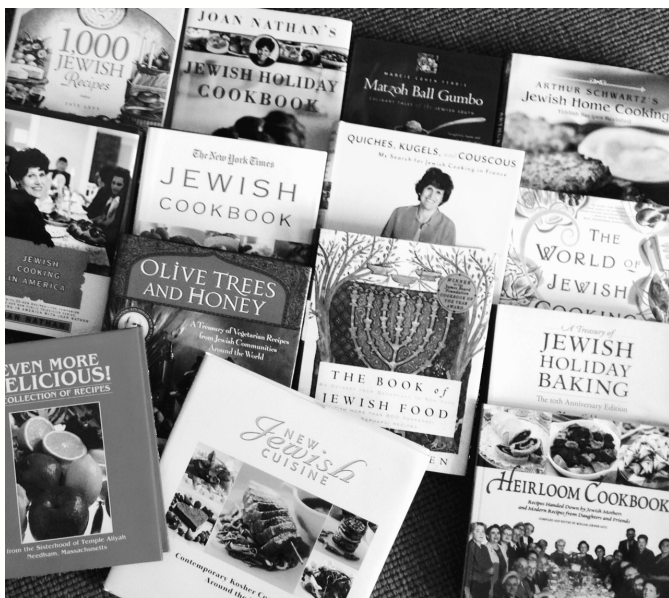


## Want to Edit This Newsletter?

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!

## Cookbooks...



Did you know that we have lots of Jewish cookbooks available for borrowing from the CBI library? Here are just a few...

## Second-Night Community Seder on April 4

Don't miss our second-night community seder, which will be at CBI on Saturday, April 4, the second night of Pesach, beginning at 6pm.

don't miss  
**CBI's**

2nd Night  
**Community Seder!**

6pm, Saturday  
**April 4**  
2015

הגדה של פסח

The Velveteen Rabbi's  
Haggadah for Pesach  
Assembled by Rabbi Rachel Barenblat;  
written, at least in part, by you

Whoever enlarges on the telling of the exodus  
is praiseworthy

songs! story!  
guitar! poetry!  
kids acting out  
the Exodus! & SO  
much more!

\$18 indiv, \$36 family  
53 Lois St. North Adams

RSVP by 3/20  
office@cbiweb.org  
663-5830

We'll provide the main dish;  
you bring non-dairy,  
kosher-for-Pesach sides.  
(Do you need gluten-free?  
Let us know!)

**FREEDOM**  
is almost here!

PosterMyWall.com

We'll dive deep into the Pesach story using the latest edition of *The Velveteen Rabbi's Haggadah for Pesach* -- with our seder led, of course, by the Velveteen Rabbi herself!

Expect stories, songs, guitar, the Pesach story re-enacted by our impromptu troupe of whichever children are there that night (led by the incomparable Jane Shiyah), and a terrific (non-dairy, kosher-for-Pesach) meal.

This year we have a few new plans as well, including a haroset bar (courtesy of Jen Burt),

and the opportunity to hear the Four Questions in many different languages.

Like last year, the cost will be \$18 (chai) for an individual, \$36 (double chai) for a family. If you can donate more than your food costs, proceeds will go to feed the hungry. **Please RSVP to the synagogue office by March 20, 2014.** Also, let us know if you need gluten-free matzah!

And please check the sign-up sheet in the CBI foyer for a list of items (non-dairy, kosher for Passover) you can contribute and any help you can offer in set up and clean up. Non-dairy, non-*hametz*, kosher for passover side dishes and deserts are very welcome.

## What Is Shmira & Why Should I Care?

*by Steven Green*

What is Shmira and why should I care?

This is often a difficult subject to discuss. I'm going to try to overcome the obvious discomfort and share why this is important to our community.

When a loved one dies everything changes. One constant is that there is a community to care for those whose days ahead are likely to be difficult. The *shomer/et*, the "watcher" is there to alleviate the concern that the family might have that their loved one is alone, in an unfamiliar place. Our tradition suggests that when someone dies the soul hovers around the body until burial; some say that the soul doesn't finally go to its rest for 11 months (this is a reason Mourners Kaddish is said daily for 11 months.)

The *shomer/et*'s task, then, is to simply keep watch over the deceased, to be there. To sit silently in the funeral home. To pray psalms. To study Torah. To be. Still.

This simple practice is a source of present comfort to the grieving family as their loved one is not alone. This profound practice is there for the deceased as the soul hovers...for now.

There is nothing that is really required of the *shomer/et* save a desire to serve the community in a unique way and to aid in comforting a family in need.

I recently served as *Shomer*. While it made sense to me for some of the reasons I have articulated, when I got the call from the Rabbi I approached it with not a small degree of trepidation. Driving over to Flynn & Dagnoli I thought for a moment, "What have I gotten myself into!" And yet...when I got there, sat down and caught my breath I found myself in one of the most sacred and profoundly spiritual experiences that I have been involved in. I thought I would only stay a short period of time to simply say, "I did it". Yet as time went by, time seemed to stand still. As I sat quietly I sensed that what I was doing went well beyond what I had intellectually thought would happen.

I had asked to do this because I thought it an important service for the community.

And it is.

However, when it was all done it had an impact on me, on my understanding of Judaism, on my spiritual life.

My hope is that you can/will have a similar experience.

Interested? Curious? Email the office and let me know. I would love to chat with you about this. I would like to have a group of people who will say "yes" to our families in need.



## March 7 Special Service

Honoring Bill Levy & Karen Kelly for all that they have given to CBI. Please RSVP to the office so we know who's coming.

## A Tikkun Olam Idea: Soaps & Shampoos

Are you traveling somewhere this spring?  
Might you be staying in a hotel?

If you are, consider taking the little shampoo and conditioner bottles provided by the hotel each night. Bring them home and we'll collect them here at CBI and donate them to some-

place where people need them, e.g. a homeless shelter or women's shelter.

## A Glimpse of Senior Lunch



*Here's a photograph from one of this winter's Senior Lunches. Seen here: Florence Wineberg z"l and Rabbi Rachel.*

## Ride Share

Are you 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)





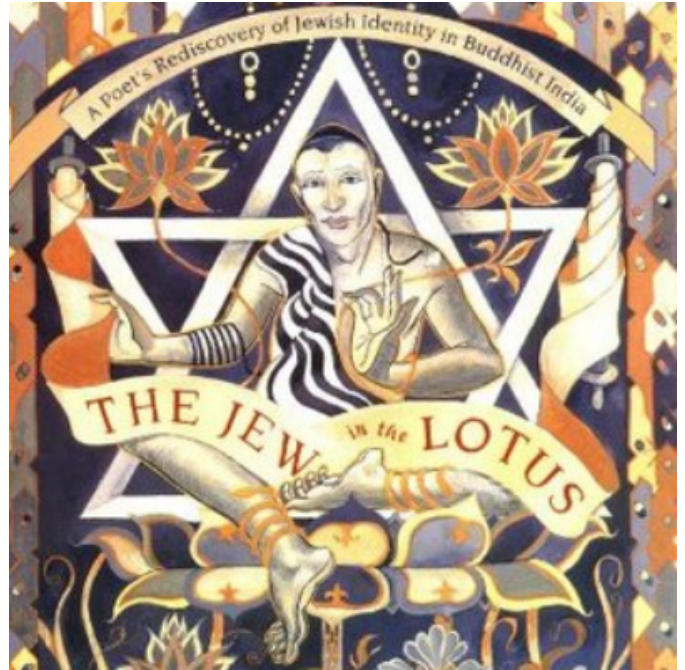
**Celebrate and engage  
with Reb Zalman's  
legacy with two unique  
opportunities this July**

**West Chester University  
(near Philadelphia, PA)**

Mark your calendars and start  
making travel arrangements now.  
Registration opens March 1st.

**July 3-5:  
"Getting It... Together"  
A Multi-Faith Shabbaton**

Reb Zalman was fond of saying "The only way to get it together... is together." An innovator of ecumenical dialogue with practitioners of a wide variety of spiritual paths, Reb Zalman leaves us a legacy of Deep Ecumenism. His deeply personal approach to dialogue led to significant friendships with many of the world's great philosophers and spiritual teachers.



This summer, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the remarkable journey of Reb Zalman and a small and varied group of Jewish leaders to Dharamsala, India, at the request of the Dalai Lama, to help Tibetan Buddhist leaders learn how a People survives (and thrives) "in a diaspora."

Join us for a weekend of learning, worship, music and ritual offered by followers of all faiths culminating in a summit of faith leaders and artists promoting the vision of deep ecumenism through various expressions.

Special guest presenters include: **Rabbi Yitz and Blu Greenberg, Rabbi Moshe Waldoks, Rodger Kamenetz** (author of *The Jew in the Lotus*, which chronicles the 1990 journey), **Rabbi Rami Shapiro, Rabbi Leah Novick** and spiritual leaders from many faith communities.

Rabbi Rachel will be going and would be happy to drive down with a group from CBI if there is interest in attending this weekend Shabbaton and gathering!

# July 6-12: "One River, Many Wells" Ruach Ha'Aretz Retreat



Join ALEPH for a week-long retreat featuring classes with renowned Jewish Renewal teachers, musicians, and artists, and extraordinary teachers from other faith traditions offering opportunities to learn about, experience, practice and question the path of Deep Ecumenism.

Dive deep with **Rabbi Avruhm Addison, Rabbi Laura Duhan Kaplan, Rabbi Leah Novick, Rabbi Shaya Isenberg & Reb Bahira Sugarman, Rabbi Shefa Gold, Rabbi Chava Bahle, Hazzan Steve Klaper & Brother Al Mascia, Rabbi Arthur Waskow & Rabbi Phyllis Berman** and more to be announced!

The **Ruach Kids** program will inspire a **culture of inter-generational connection** that supports the aliveness of an intact culture where everything and everyone is

interdependent as we all embrace Reb Zalman's vision and seek to bring peace to our hearts, our families and the world.

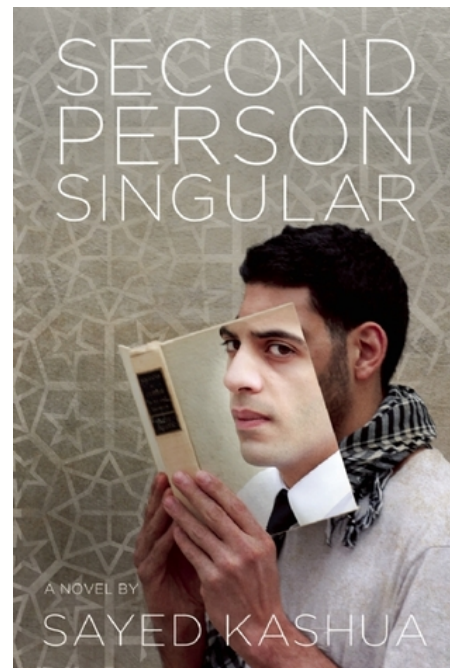
**Registration for the Shabbaton and the retreat week will open March 1 at [ALEPH.org](http://ALEPH.org)**

## CBI Book Group: Upcoming

The CBI Book Group will be discussing some terrific titles in months to come, including:

**The Crisis of Zionism**, nonfiction by Peter Beinart, March 2;

**Super Sad True Love Story**, fiction by Gary Shteyngart, March 30;



**Second Person Singular**, nonfiction by Sayed Kashua, May 11;

**Badenheim 1939**, fiction by Aharon Appelfeld, June 1;

**Judaism and Justice: the Jewish Passion to Repair the World**, nonfiction by Rabbi Sidney Schwartz, July 13;

**Brothers Ashkenazi**, fiction by Israel Joseph Singer, August 24;

**The War on Women in Israel: The Story of Religious Radicalism**, nonfiction by Elana Maryles Sztokman, October 19.

All are welcome. For more information, email Chaim Bronstein at [chaim@bcn.net](mailto:chaim@bcn.net).

## Second Annual Game Night

On a snowy Saturday night, February 21st. we held our second annual game night. We planned game night in February as a break from the winter weather but this years' weather may have slowed us down a bit.

Our crowd was a little smaller than last year but just as enthusiastic. Our group was very diverse from our youngest, Kayla and Cameron Miller, to our long term members the Bashevkins and the Armets. Also in attendance were Cheryl Sacks, Liz and Steve Miller, Robin Brickman and Jeff Strait and Alice Cande and Steven Cook.

We provided the Pizza and soda and members brought salad and desserts.

We had a variety of games to choose from as members brought their own games and Where'd You Get That? again generously donated games for the evening as well as three games to raffle.

We look forward to seeing you again next year.

## President's Column

*by Pattie Lipman*

There is a bustling of activity at CBI these days. Events are being planned, committees are forming and coming into their own; people are excited. It is as if a fresh breeze blew open a window announcing new life!

We have a new Committee chaired by the inimitable Steven Green, one of our newest Board members. This is the Spiritual Life Committee, whose inaugural meeting is March 2nd at 5 at CBI. This is a grass roots committee, from the ground-up, so come to this or other meetings to add your voice!

Tikkun Olam (Repair the World), our Social Action Committee has been meeting with our Caring committee, Chesed, as they have members and concerns in common. Wendy Penner is Chair of Tikkun Olam and Jane Shiyah is the guiding light of Chesed. Our combined group was instrumental in helping bring about a wonderful mitzvah when Rabbi Rachel and a double-minyan-plus of community members brought a movable Shabbat service to Williamstown Commons for our beloved Gene Wein. The love and warmth was palpable and Rabbi's service was elegant, sacred and inspiring. Gene was surrounded by his loving daughters, Sherry, Roberta and Paulette and the community.

Wendy Penner is bringing her knowledge and passion to the Tikkun Olam Committee, you can expect great things from her and the current members, Jane Shiyah, Alice Cande, Chaim Bronstein, Ron Turbin, Amy Filson and Cole Filson and moi. You are welcome to join us for our meetings and/or send us your ideas for accomplishing good things within our CBI community and beyond.

The Board voted unanimously for CBI to join the Berkshire Interfaith Organization, BIO, at our last meeting, so that we can partner in the efforts of Berkshire County's faith communities in efforts to improve the lives of people in the County. The current, primary goal is to bring a much, much better public transportation to the area. We join Knesset Israel of Pittsfield as the only other Jewish faith community of BIO, so far.

Watch for the Tikkun Olam emailed newsletters to keep apprised of what we are doing, and what opportunities for helping are available to you. Let us know if you want a hard copy of them.



With the combined input of congregants in the Spiritual Life, Education and Tikkun Olam groups (and the Rabbi!), we are planning Events, Programs, Speakers and special Friday night Kabbalat services. Not even mentioning the grand holiday events that have and will happen. Clear your schedules!

I hope to see you at the special Shabbat and brief but tasty kiddush after services to toast Karen Kelly and Bill Levy, for all they have done for CBI, this March 7th and ...AND for the joyous service on March 21st led by Rabbi Rachel and Rabbi David Markus with cake and ice cream following, to celebrate Rabbi Rachel's Birthday. Please rsvp the office for both events so we can plan on enough to go around.

Sadly, I end with a fond remembrance of Florence Wineberg, of blessed memory, who passed away this week. We will miss you, lovely Florence.

## Upcoming Occasions

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

### March Birthdays

3/2 Richard Cohen  
 3/2 Edward Oshinsky  
 3/5 Joan Benjamin  
 3/5 Cameron Miller  
 3/8 George Drasin  
 3/12 Patricia Anne Lipman  
 3/13 Alex Apkin  
 3/13 Sasha Rooney  
 3/14 Ruth Thier  
 3/17 Grace Bowen  
 3/18 John Hogan  
 3/20 Robert Hertzog  
 3/20 Andrew Levy  
 3/21 Rabbi Rachel Barenblat  
 3/22 Isaac Herrmann  
 3/27 Jay Shapiro  
 3/27 Jefferson Strait  
 3/28 Audrey Thier

3/29 Howard Saunders  
 3/30 Richard Dubow  
 3/30 Sally Gotlieb  
 3/30 Lori Guy  
 3/31 Robert Werbel

### April Birthdays

4/2 Dena Drasin  
 4/4 Lauren Gotlieb  
 4/4 Lawrence Weber  
 4/6 Deborah Rothschild  
 4/7 Carol Jacobs  
 4/8 Rose Gotlieb  
 4/8 Matthew Hogan  
 4/8 Jonah Marshall  
 4/9 Jane Shiyah  
 4/10 Marsha Altschuler  
 4/14 Alina Fein  
 4/14 Beth Wees  
 4/14 Susan Welsch  
 4/16 Barbara Goldstein  
 4/16 Maisie Lentzner  
 4/17 Ruth Levin  
 4/19 Sophie Lane  
 4/26 Sarah Elizabeth Apkin  
 4/27 Sarah Miller  
 4/27 Simon Wineberg  
 4/29 Laura Schoenbaum

### March/April Anniversaries

3/8 Howard & Deborah Wineberg  
 3/18 Bill Levy & Karen Kelly  
 4/24 Charles & Susan Welsch

## Deep thanks to donors

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

### Chesed

Ellen Schiff

### Education

Ellen Schiff

In memory of  
 Morton Schiff

Susan & Charles  
Welsch

In memory of  
Richard Welsch

**High Holiday      Appeal**

Kenneth & Fern  
Sann

**Ruthie's Lunch      Bunch**

Marilyn Darack

In appreciation of  
CBI's thoughtful  
support of Jane  
Miller during  
her recent illness

**Take & Eat      Program**

Robert & Barbara  
Bashevkin  
Joan Krizack  
Marc Krizack  
Len & Darlene Radin  
Barbara Schnitzer

**In Honor of the      Wedding of  
Chris Kelly &  
Maude Rich:**

Jan Caryl Kaufman

**In Honor of David & Maribeth  
Pomerantz**

Paula & Philip  
Pomerantz

**General      Donations**

Becky & Daniel  
Cellana

Lois Feldman

In memory of  
Joseph Rubin

Mort Freedman  
Family

In memory of Jack  
Freedman

Nancy Gabrilove

In memory of  
Hillard & Ella  
Gabrilove

Jerrold & Carol  
Jacobs

In memory of  
Morris Jacobs

Allen & Debbie  
Kushnet

In memory of  
Graham Kushnet

Marilyn Less

In memory of  
William Less

Pattie Lipman

In honor of the bar  
mitzvah of Cole  
Filson

Pattie Lipman

In honor of the birth  
of Ezra Marshall

Kenneth & Fern  
Sann

Len & Darlene Radin

Laura & Roger  
Thompson

In memory of  
George Dickstein

Ron & Judy Turbin

Tela Zasloff

**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.

## 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!

All are welcome!

## Donations Welcome

Donations to CBI are always welcome, and may be directed to:

Cemetery Fund  
Education Fund  
Building Fund  
Senior Lunch Fund  
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund  
Take & Eat  
Program/Event Fund  
*Gemilut Chasadim* (Acts of Lovingkindness)

## March 21 - Services co-led by Rabbi Rachel & Rabbi David Markus (birthday kiddush to follow)

Join us on the morning of Saturday, March 21, for a special Shabbat morning service co-led by Rabbi Rachel and her dear friend Rabbi David Markus (of Temple Beth El of City Island). Expect lots of music, harmony, and joy! We'll also have a special kiddush that day in celebration of Rabbi Rachel's birthday. Please RSVP to the office so we know how many to expect.

## The Jar of Tears: A Memorial from the Warsaw Ghetto - one-man storytelling performance, 3pm on April 19, for Yom HaShoah

This full length storytelling performance is based on the life of Rabbi Kalonymus Kalman Shapiro, known as the Rebbe of the Warsaw Ghetto. Rabbi Shapiro wrote while in the



ghetto and buried his writings in a milk jug which were found nearly a dozen years later by construction workers. This telling re-imagines his sermons as journal entries; his diary to the Master of the World.



This portrait provides a window into his changing experiences in the Warsaw Ghetto and show his struggle to remain a compassionate leader even then, even there.



*Rabbi Kalonymus Kalman Shapiro, a.k.a. the Piaczetzner Rebbe, a.k.a the Rabbi of the Warsaw Ghetto.*

*The Jar of Tears* has been performed widely including in Warsaw Poland, and won the Charles Hildebrandt Holocaust Studies Award in honor of its artistic excellence, depth of vision and technical mastery.

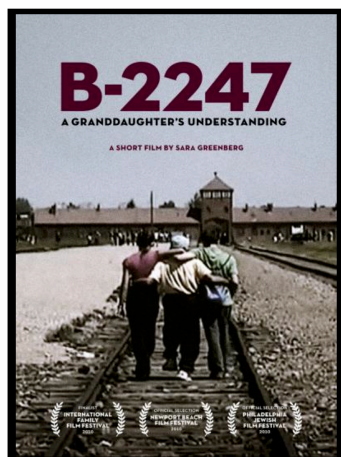
## About the performer:

Maggid David Arfa (Mah-geed; Storyteller) is dedicated to Judaism's storytelling heritage and ancient environmental wisdom. His latest CD of stories, *The Life and Times of Herschel of Ostropol: The Greatest Prankster Who Ever Lived* won a nationally acclaimed Parents' Choice Award . His first CD of stories, *The Birth of Love: Tales for the Days of Awe*, includes ancient mythology, old world Yiddish tales (set here in the Berkshire foothills), medieval folktales and other surprises. His storytelling performance, *The Jar of Tears: A Memorial for the Rebbe of the Warsaw Ghetto*, won the Cohen Center's Hildebrandt Award for Holocaust memorial art based on it's depth of vision and artistic quality.

David's workshop "Try Stories for a Change" helps organizations build volunteers and raise funds through authentic storytelling and listening circles. Other workshops explore the relationships between wonder, grief, hope and activism in a Jewish context. David earned his MS in Environmental Education from Lesley College, spent a year studying traditional texts in Jerusalem, and earned degrees from Michigan State University in both Wildlife Ecology and Environmental Policy.

David lives in the Berkshire foothills of Shelburne Falls and is the Director of Education for Congregation Beth Israel in North Adams.

## Film Screening In Honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day



### What does it mean to be a third generation descendant of Holocaust survivors?

Beginning with a young girl's discovery of the number on her grandfather's arm and ending with an inter-generational family trip back to Birkenau - Auschwitz, this short documentary culminates in an intense recognition of a generation's obligation to retell their grandparents' stories to the world and to future generations. **May we never forget.**

**Sunday, April 12, 2014**

**2 pm**

**Lenox Town Hall Auditorium**

**6 Walker Street, Lenox, MA**

**AFTER THE FILM:** Join us for a conversation with Sara Greenberg, the film's producer/director, and Judy Levin (MSW, LCSW), an interviewer with the Transcending Trauma Project, exploring the intergenerational impact and legacy of the Holocaust.

**A candle lighting and moment of silence will be observed**

This event is free and open to the public.

This program is appropriate for children 11 years and up.

For more information: (413) 442-4360, ext 10.

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## Ethiopian Jewry

For the last 30 years, the Israel Association for Ethiopian Jews (IAEJ) has been providing assistance for more than 140,000 Ethiopian Jews in Israel and Ethiopia with education, housing, job training, advocacy, and community empowerment. Your generous tax-deductible contribution will make a difference. For information, to make a contribution, or to join the mailing list, contact the IAEJ at Friends of Ethiopian Jews, PO Box 960059, Boston MA 02196.

## Next Newsletter...

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

Thanks!

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Rabbi's Study:

Mondays 9am-3:30pm  
Fridays 9am-4pm  
(meditation minyan 9am)  
other times by appointment

Phone (413) 822-5267  
E-mail [rabbibarenblat@gmail.com](mailto:rabbibarenblat@gmail.com)

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