The SCOOP

The Happenings of Congregation Beth Israel

April 2024 | אדר ב'-ניסן תשפ"ד

In the vibrant tapestry of Jewish holidays, Purim and Passover shine as two beacons of joy and remembrance. Purim, recently celebrated with great fanfare at CBI (see images below), transported us to the ancient kingdom of Persia, where the heroic tale of Queen Esther unfolded. It was a time of costumes, laughter, and the sweet delight of hamantaschen. As we donned our masks and engaged in joyous revelry, we were reminded of the enduring power of courage and the triumph of good over evil—then and now.

As we bid farewell to Purim, our hearts turn with anticipation to the upcoming Passover holiday. Passover, or Pesach in Hebrew, commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. It is a time of profound reflection, storytelling, and the sharing of traditional meals.

At the heart of Passover is the seder, a ritual feast that brings families and communities together. The seder plate, adorned with symbolic foods, tells the story of the Exodus and reminds us of the challenges and triumphs of our ancestors. As we partake in symbolic foods, such as matzah and maror, we are transported back in time, experiencing the trials and tribulations of our people. We will not have a public Seder at CBI this year, but hopefully, we will next year.

Passover is also a time for introspection and self-reflection. It invites us to consider our own journeys and the ways in which we can strive for freedom in our lives. It is a time to reflect on the challenges we face, the obstacles we must overcome, and the paths we must take to achieve our goals.

As we prepare for Passover, let us embrace the spirit of this beautiful holiday. Let us gather with loved ones, share stories, and celebrate our people's enduring legacy. May the blessings of Passover bring joy, peace, and liberation to all.

The CBI Scoop Editorial Team

To all who participated in our
Purim Card Fundraiser:

Thank you for making it a great success. It told the story of the New CBI and the cohesiveness of our community.

A special thanks to Roberta Bouer, Rob Rothschild, Judy Slatsky, and Shari & Irv Miljoner for being part of the team that made it happen.

www.cbicg.org

HAPPY PURIM

congregation beth israel

TURN OFF YOUR DEVICE

DURING OUR SERVICES AND EVENTS

The Rabbi Speaks

Dear friends,

As we enter the great season of our ancient liberation from Egypt, I would like to say that I am very proud of our congregation, of the dedication of many of its members, and of the cohesiveness that seems to have come our way in a gorgeous fashion.

When I started here in 2018, unbeknownst to the fact that in a mere year-and-a-half, we would be running into the disruption of Covid-19, there seemed to be a different mood and general sentiment in our congregation: it was a little bit more divided, not as united, and there was a general feeling that not everyone was on the same page. At least, that's the way I saw it from my vantage point.

That feeling seems to exist no more. Like the ancient Israelites, I feel that we have liberated ourselves from the shackles of the past that held us back, and we are marching along in a positive direction. I feel that there is only positive growth and optimism ahead. The participation is greater, the enthusiasm is more palpable, and there is an overall sense of community that is hard to deny. The holidays are celebrated with gusto, and more people seem to be jumping on board CBI's community boat, which seems to be sailing along at a steady and stable pace.

Now, we only have to keep marching forward, utilizing our momentum to grow even more. Quality is always better than quantity, but both are necessary—and both we shall have. It's only a matter of time, and keep telling your friends about the warmth of the CBI community.

I wish you and all of Israel a joyous holiday of liberation from both our physical impediments and spiritual blockages.

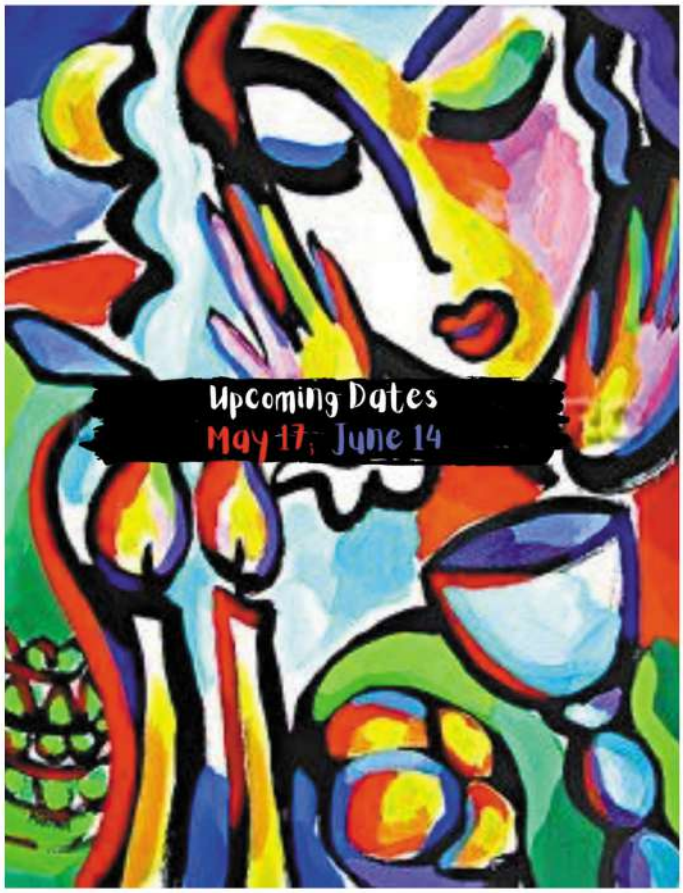
Chag Kasher V'sameach/ חג כשר ושמח.

Warmly,
Rabbi Abe

Upcoming Events

CBI Presents
4000 years of Jewish Humor
Sunday, June 9, 2024 | 2 PM
Featuring
Rabbi Arnie Sleutelberg
Save the Date
Details to Follow

cbi Presents
congregation beth israel
JEWISH HERITAGE WEDNESDAYS
WITH RABBI ABE
@8 PM On Zoom



Musical Kabbalat Shabbat @CBI

Join us these Friday nights

April 19

May 17

June 14

@7:30 PM

Oneg to follow services

Bring your friends and family

Sponsor a **Kiddush** or **Oneg** to commemorate a **Simcha** or a **Yahrtzeit**

For more information
call/text 917-446-7983

A BIG thank you to

Mindy & Monte Leeper

for sponsoring the Oneg on March 22 in honor of their 42nd wedding anniversary, and for inviting their friends and adding some new souls to CBI during our musical Kabbalat Shabbat Service

"Hold on—I think you got my toast."

"I miss that sense of fulfillment that I had when I was part of a plague."

Come on, laugh a bit. It will do you good--and then some.

April Yahrzeits

- **Fannie Kleine** 4-1
- **S.Rothschild** 4-3
- **I Rosenkranz** 4-4
- **Joseph Brass** 4-5
- **Rose Skulsky** 4-10
- **Julian Levi** 4-11
- **H.R. Levine** 4-13
- **S. Janvey.** 4-14
- **Sender Levine** 4-14
- **Martha Levy** 4-15
- **Irene Weisman** 4-15
- **Yetta Levine** 4-21
- **L. Rothschild** 4-21
- **B. Rutzisky** 4-23
- **Yetta Abo** 4-25
- **D. Lovinger** 4-26

In Memoriam & Yahrzeit Donations

Dana & Kevin Brandes (in memory of Bernie Nierenberg)

Marsha Mandell (in memory of Mldred Rappaport)

Sondra Bernstein (in memory of my mother, Ruth Volin, and my husband, Marvin Bernstein)

Muriel Levine (at the Yahrtzeits of Sender Levein and Yetta Levine)

Donations

Muriel Levine (wishing Marianne Baker and Suellen Agulnick a rapid and complete recovery)

Lynn Sevan (wishing Marianne Baker a speedy recovery and good health)

Marriane Baker (to thank the many congergants who wished me well)

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