The SCOOP

The Happenings of Congregation Beth Israel

May 2024 | ניסן- אייר תשפ"ד

Counting the Omer after Passover is a tradition deeply rooted in Jewish culture, with both historical and spiritual significance. The Omer refers to a period of 49 days between Passover and Shavuot, during which the Jewish people count each day in anticipation of the holiday of Shavuot, which commemorates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai.

The act of counting the Omer serves as a spiritual journey, a time of introspection and personal growth. Each day offers an opportunity for self-reflection and refinement, leading to a deeper connection with God and a greater appreciation for the teachings of the Torah.

From a modern perspective, counting the Omer can be seen as a practice of mindfulness and intentionality. In a world filled with distractions, taking the time to count each day serves as a reminder to slow down and focus on what truly matters. It encourages us to cultivate gratitude for the blessings in our lives and to strive for continual improvement.

Furthermore, the period of the Omer teaches us the importance of perseverance and patience. Just as the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years before reaching the Promised Land, counting the Omer reminds us that growth and transformation take time. It is a journey of faith and dedication, leading us closer to our spiritual goals with each passing day.

We hope that you take this special time in the Jewish calendar to discover the beauty and efficacy of intentionality and focus.

The CBI Scoop Editorial Team

TURN OFF YOUR DEVICE

DURING OUR SERVICES AND EVENTS

The Rabbi Speaks

Dear friends,

The Jewish people are living through trying times.

In the last few weeks, anti-Israel campus encampments and protests have alarmingly mushroomed around the country, making many Jews in general and Jewish students at these respective schools in particular very uncomfortable. One of the biggest encampments-and the catalyst of them all—happened in our backyard at Columbia University—my graduate school alma mater.

I am a graduate of the journalism school and have always been very proud of that accomplishment. I'm not ready to rip up my diploma as I have seen some younger folk do on social media because I am not that kind of person (I prefer nuance and am, by nature, a reasoned person), and I feel that it's performative and does not help the problem. Still, I think the university has lost its way in allowing these propaganda rallies to go unimpeded. The administration seems to fear these rabble-rousers and does not seem to have any definitive ideas of how to deal with it. As I write this, it looks like they're allowing it to fester and have these young adults stew in their world of misinformation and libel. The deadline for "negotiations" keeps getting pushed off, and a deadline is not a deadline if, well, there's no deadline.

The only way for Jews to adequately address this problem is to counter it by speaking up and not burying our collective heads in the sand. We are a people with an unmatched history, and we have a culture that is very much the basis of much of Western culture. We have accomplished so much as a people, and the nation of Israel in the State of Israel is unparalleled regarding inventions and innovations that have moved the world forward. Oh, and we have Judaism, a religion that is so rich in its textual focus and its respect for the written word. We are the original "people of the book," as the Koran likes to point out, which has influenced us always to be inquiring and trying to make life better than we found it. We have always lived by that creed.

Let us be proud of our legacy. Let us shout it from the rooftops. We are Jews, we have given the world so much, and many people don't like us because of or despite that. Let that not be our problem. We must continue marching to our beat of human progress, and let's hope the haters out there follow our way. We have nothing to be ashamed of and everything to be proud of. If they want to remain stuck in a world that is hateful and archaic, so be it, but we move forward.

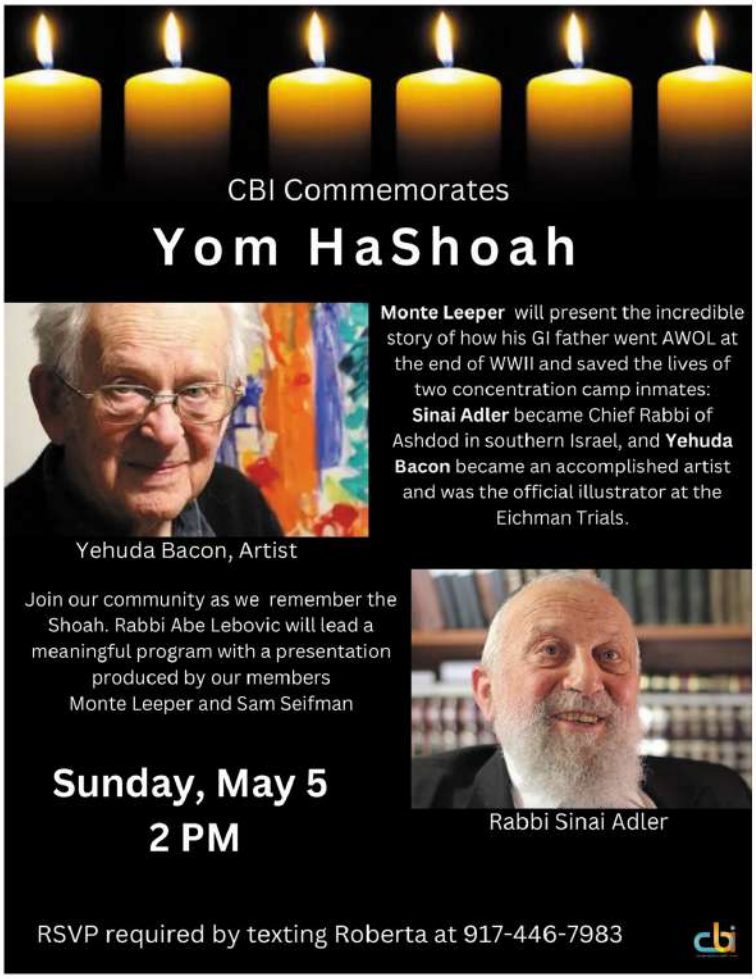
So, let's be proud.

Now more than ever, it is crucial to participate in this moment in Jewish history and not sit it out on the sidelines. History has taught us that when we allow rabble-rousers to rise, it does not always turn out well, and the rabble-rousers can and will have their way if good and decent people allow them to. Yom Hashoa is all about that, where we say Never Again. We mean that. Never Again means Never Again.

Let's make sure our enemies, haters, and dissenters know that by being bold and proud.

Warmly,
Rabbi Abe

Upcoming Events



CELEBRATE THE **FIRST BIRTHDAY** OF DEBBIE KRAUSS' TWIN GRANDSONS

JOIN RICHIE & DEBBIE FOR SERVICES AND KIDDUSH TO FOLLOW

Shabbat
May 11
10 AM

RSVP REQUIRED by May 3rd by clicking here

SAVE THE DATE

For a very special

B-day celebration at CBI on Shabbat

June 22

Details to come in the June Scoop

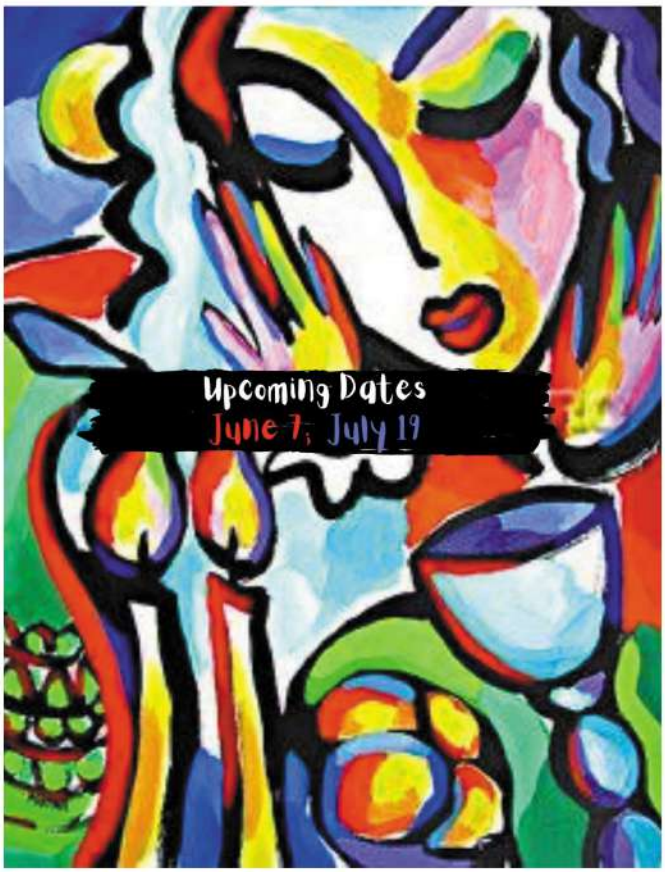
cbi Presents

congregation beth israel

JEWISH HERITAGE WEDNESDAYS

WITH RABBI ABE

@8 PM On Zoom



Musical Kabbalat Shabbat @CBI

Join us these Friday nights

May 24

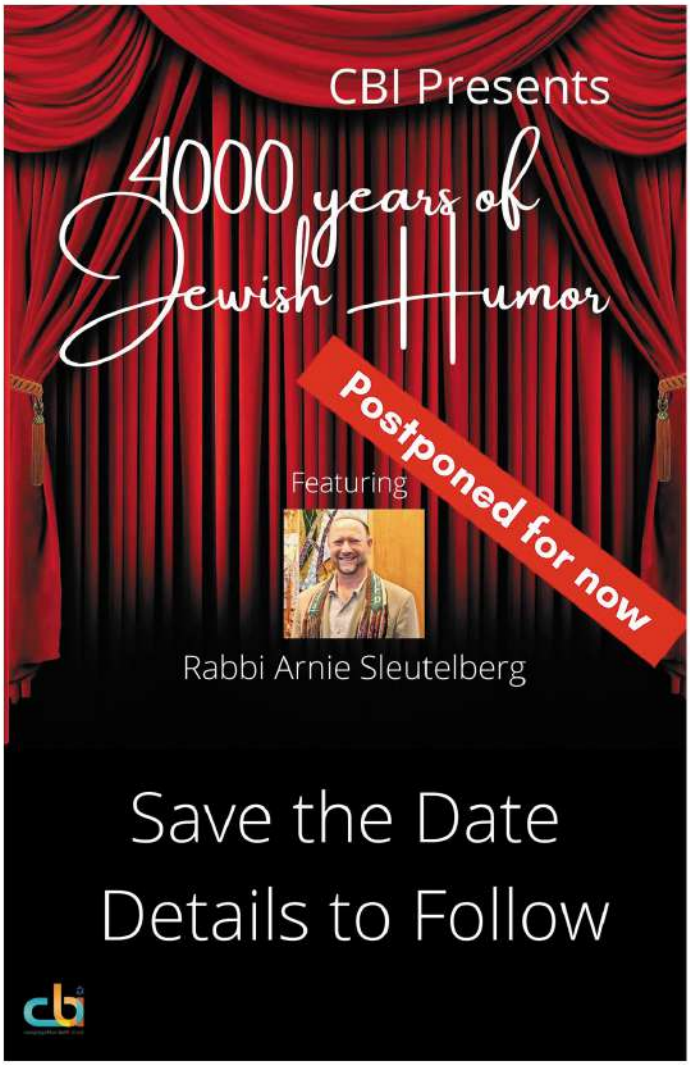
June 7

July 19

@7:30 PM

Oneg to follow services

Bring your friends and family



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ONEG TO COMMEMORATE A
SIMCHA
OR A **YAHRTZEIT**

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL/TEXT 917-446-7983

A big Thanks to **Ellen Zimel**
for sponsoring and preparing the Kiddush on March 30,
and for always being there when help is needed.

" No, we're not religious. Sam just wears that cap to hide his bald spot. "

"Have everything? Your glasses? Your keys? Your Jewish guilt?"

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

May Yahrzeits

• Max Kleine	5-2	• Martin Cohen	5-22
• Ethel Cohen	5-5	• Ann Rothman	5-23
• Ted Louzin	5-8	• Katie Pasternak	5-24
• Bernard H Slosberg	5-8	• Conseetion Rivergh	5-26
• Julius Zimel	5-9	• Sidney Chalphin	5-29
• Mark Bass	5-12	• Eva Etterman	5-30
• Bessie Jacobs	5-14	• Claire Parvin	5-30
• Paul Aniess	5-15	• Hyman Zucker	5-31

In Memoriam & Yahrzeit Donations

Muriel Levine (at the Yahrtzeits of sister-in-law, Claire Pravin);

Muriel Levine (in memory of David Sabbas)

Tilda Lovinger (at the Yahrtzeit of my husband, Dave Lovinger)

Marsha Mandell (at the Yahrtzeit of my father, Isaac Rosenkranz

Muriel Levine and Marianne Baker (condolences to Barry Agulnic at the passing of his wife, Suellen Agulnick);

Barbara Kaufman (in memory of my beloved father, Bernard H. Slosberg

Shari & Irv Miljoner (in memory of David Sabbas, brother of Abe Sabbas)

Shari & Irv Miljoner (I'm memory of Suellen Agulnick)

Ileen & Rob Rothschild (at the Yartzeits of Jospeh Brass, Siegfried Rothschild and Lawrence Rothschild)

Robin Sabbas (in memory of David Sabbas, brother of Abe Sabbas)

Donations

Muriel Levine (wishing Judi Slatsky and Alan Mantis a rapid and complete recovery)

Ellen Zimel (to thank CBI for helping me celebrate my birthday)

Mark & Pam Guttman(Happy Anniversary to our friends Mindy & Monte Leeper. Wishing many more! Mazel Tov!)

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